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THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED

Nov. 27, 2015

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Shavon Shields

Rachel Theriot

HOOPS PREVIEW

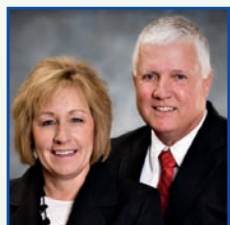
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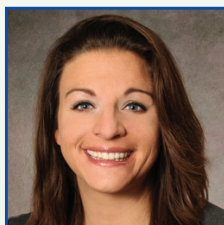
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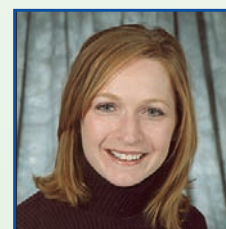
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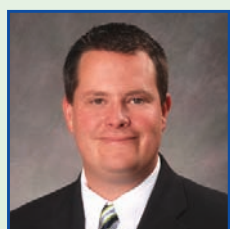
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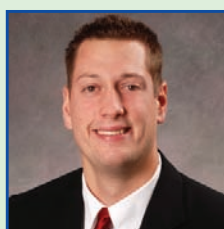
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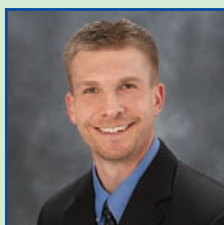
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2015 HUSKER FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location	Results
Sat, Sep 05	BYU	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Sep 12	South Alabama	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Sep 19	Miami	at Miami, Fla.	-
Sat, Sep 26	Southern Miss	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Oct 03	Illinois*	at Champaign, Ill.	-
Sat, Oct 10	Wisconsin*	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Oct 17	Minnesota*	at Minneapolis, Minn.	-
Sat, Oct 24	Northwestern*	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Oct 31	Purdue*	at West Lafayette, Ind.	-
Sat, Nov 07	Michigan State*	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Nov 14	Rutgers*	at Piscataway, N.J.	-
Fri, Nov 27	Iowa*	Memorial Stadium	-
Sat, Dec. 05	Big Ten Championship*	at Indianapolis, Ind.	-

*Conference Games



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TERRORISM CASTS SHADOW OVER SPORTING EVENTS Nebraska now takes aim at beating Iowa, being bowl eligible

MY WIFE AND I HAD JUST LEFT THE GROUND ZERO MUSEUM IN NEW YORK CITY ON FRIDAY WHEN WE CAUGHT WORD OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN PARIS.

After witnessing such a powerful and emotional exhibit at Ground Zero about one of the worst days in our country's history, it was a surreal feeling to be in New York City as Paris was experiencing its own horrific terrorist attacks.

There was even some talk in New York City of whether the Nebraska and Rutgers game, as well as some NFL games, should be played after terrorists attacked a sporting event in France.

Obviously the Nebraska and Rutgers game happened as did NFL games, but security was definitely elevated around New York City on Saturday as we headed to the Penn Station in the bottom of Madison Square Garden to catch a train to Piscataway, N.J. We passed three armed National Guard troops at the entrance, who hadn't been there the day before.

It was a real reminder of all the work that goes into making our country safe and free.

This past week was also Veterans Day, and Rutgers paid tribute to military members before and during Saturday's game.

From all of us here at *Huskers Illustrated*, we want to thank those service men and women for all their time and efforts defending our country.

Speaking of these heroes, the final regular season game for the Huskers against Iowa on Nov. 27 will be for



not only the Heroes Trophy, but a lot more.

The Hawkeyes already have the Big Ten East Division title sowed up and should be coming into Lincoln undefeated with national title hopes still in tow.

Meanwhile, the Huskers now are riding a two-game winning streak and have a shot of salvaging a 6-6 regular season and likely a bowl game.

When asked if he was excited with the situation Nebraska is in heading into Iowa, defensive lineman Greg McMullen replied "Yes and no.

"Nobody is ever going to be satisfied being 5-6," McMullen said. "I don't care what sport you are in. You are always trying to be the best. 5-6 isn't your best. We have to accept we made it to where we are better than what we could have been. Ultimately we could have been 3-8 or whatever. We have one more game. We want to go out 6-6 and be .500."

The past four meetings with Iowa since NU has joined the Big Ten have laid the groundwork for a rivalry between the two bordering schools and their fanbases with the Huskers owning a 3-1 mark in those contests.

NU won 20-7 in 2011 in Lincoln and 13-7 in 2012 in Iowa City before Iowa broke a long losing streak in 2013 with a 38-17 triumph in Lincoln. The Huskers used a big comeback in 2014 to earn a 37-34 OT victory.

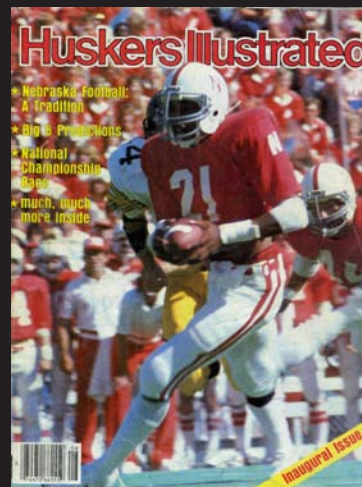
The Huskers say a win could help salvage this season and be big for Coach Riley's program not only this year, but in the future.

"It sets the tone for the season and how we want to end it," Maliek Collins said. "We want to go out with a bang this year. It's huge for this program."

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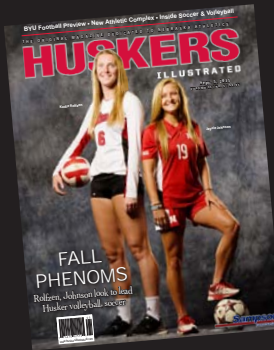
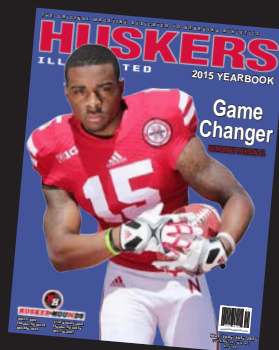
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Editor, General Manager: **DARREN IVY**
darrenivy@huskersillustrated.com

Photographer: **JOE MIXAN**

Photographer: **JIM RASH**

Photographer: **MITCH OTTO**

Recruiting Writer: **MIKE SCHAEFER**

Beat Writer: **MICHAEL BRUNTZ**

Beat Writer: **LANNY HOLSTEIN**

Beat Writer: **SHANE G. GILSTER**

Contributing Writer: **DOUG GRIFFITHS**

Contributing Writer: **BRIAN ROSENTHAL**

Contributing Writer: **BOB HAMAR**

Contributing Writer: **TERRY DOUGLASS**

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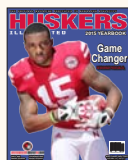
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The next Huskers Illustrated edition, featuring the Season Recap will mail Nov. 30



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SHAVON SHIELDS & RACHEL THERIOT

BY SHANE G. GILSTER

Seniors Shavon Shields and Rachel Theriot will be counted on as leaders on their respective basketball teams with so many new faces this season.

2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	TV/SCORE
SEPT. 5	BYU	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30 P.M.	L, 33-28
SEPT. 12	SOUTH ALABAMA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	7 P.M.	W, 48-9
SEPT. 19	@MIAMI	MIAMI, FLORIDA	2:30 P.M.	L, 36-33 OT
SEPT. 26	SOUTHERN MISS	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11 A.M.	W, 36-28
OCT. 3	@ILLINOIS	CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS	2:30 P.M.	L, 14-13
OCT. 10	WISCONSIN	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30 P.M.	L, 23-21
OCT. 17	@MINNESOTA	MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA	2:30 P.M.	W, 48-25
OCT. 24	NORTHWESTERN	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11 A.M.	L, 30-28
OCT. 31	@PURDUE	WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA	11 A.M.	L, 55-45
NOV. 7	MICHIGAN STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	6 P.M.	W, 39-38
NOV. 14	@RUTGERS	PISCATAWAY, N.J.	2:30 P.M.	W, 31-14
NOV. 27	IOWA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	TBA	TBA

ALL GAMES ARE CST



ON THE COVER

Nebraska seniors Rachel Theriot and Shavon Shields have been three-year starters for their respective basketball teams. With a ton of new faces on each team, both veterans will be counted on to provide leadership as the Huskers get their seasons started. Both teams opened with large victories on Nov. 14 at the Pinnacle Bank Arena.

PHOTO BY JOE MIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



RECRUITING NOTEBOOK

BY MICHAEL SCHAEFER
RECRUITING EDITOR
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

Horne, Roby sign early with Husker men's program

A year after bringing in what could be a program changing class, Nebraska coach Tim Miles added a pair of talented forwards to the Huskers future roster. Both Jeriah Horne and Isaiah Roby signed in middle of November, locking them in for next season.

Both additions were three-star talents as ranked by 247Sports and each could help the Huskers early in their careers.

Horne hails from Overland Park, Kan., where he played high school ball at The Barstow School. The 6-foot-7, 220-pound forward helped lead Barstow to a championship in Missouri's Class 3, finishing with a double-double average on the season. Horne scored 20.1 points per game, grabbing 10 rebounds a contest.

The Huskers stole Horne away from Iowa State, Minnesota, Wichita State and a number of other schools. Horne will help the Huskers continue to stockpile front court talent.

Miles said Horne's ability transcends just strong athleticism.

"Jeriah is a physical player with excellent skill and his basketball IQ is outstanding," Miles said. "He finds a way to be extremely productive as both a scorer and rebounder, but also allows for his team to be successful at the same time. He



Jeriah Horne from Overland Park, Kansas is one of two Class of 2016 recruits who have already signed with the Huskers.

has experienced great success at both the high school and AAU levels, and knows how to win. I believe he will be a very good player for us and has the opportunity to contribute immediately."

Where as Horne is considered a bruiser inside who can bang with the rest of the big boys, Roby shows flashes of being an all-around swing forward – a player with the ability to stretch the court but can also get it to the rim.

Nebraska landed Roby very early in the process, nabbing him before the start of his junior season and over some other interesting teams like Creighton, Georgia, Northern Illinois and Northern Iowa. The early commitment from Roby remained strong, even after the Huskers

struggled in the 2014-15 season.

Roby, who checks in at 6-foot-8, 205 pounds, did it all for Dixon (Ill.) High school as a junior. The 247Sports composite four-star flashed impressive versatility on both ends of the court.

The Nebraska signee averaged 12.5 points, 9.8 rebounds, 3.8 assists, 2.6 steals and 3.7 blocks during his junior season, helping lead Dixon to a regionals appearance in Illinois Class 3A.

That versatility will be important at Nebraska where the Huskers will eventually have to replace Shavon Shields, a player who has excelled for Miles on both ends of the court.

"He's got great length, one of the best passers that I've probably seen in a long time, and just a tremendous kid with high character," Miles said. "He can shoot it, he can rebound, he do a little bit of everything."

Nebraska still holds a scholarship to use for the 2016 class and will carry it over into the spring.

The Huskers are looking for another big man to add to the mix, but could also opt to look for a transfer, something Miles has done each year since coming to Nebraska.

The Huskers have had good success with bringing in transfer players, including Anton Gill, Terran Petteway, Walter Pitchford and Andrew White. **N**

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

STATE OF THE HUSKERS

Freshman guard Watson will play key role



Read daily Husker reports from Michael Bruntz at HuskersIllustrated.com
Follow him on Twitter @michaelbruntz

Practices can sometimes be difficult for point guards – they’re the coach on the floor responsible for getting the team in the right set and making plays for teammates, and when they don’t put their team in a place to be successful, they frequently hear from their head coach.

That can be particularly so for freshmen point guards like Nebraska’s Glynn Watson.

“That’s not good for me to get yelled at, but that means he’s relying on me and he sees something that I might not see in myself,” Watson said as the Huskers worked to prepare for their season opener.

Watson is correct. The Huskers will be relying on him in a big way in his first season of collegiate basketball. The 6-foot, 165-pounder is a cerebral playmaker who was the No. 77 overall player in the 2015 class according to the 247Sports Composite rankings.

The Chicago native is part of Nebraska’s large and talented freshman class that was among the best in the Big Ten, and will be relied upon to contribute this season.

Watson will be among the most important, as he gives Nebraska a legitimate scoring and ball-handling threat on offense. Senior Benny Parker has been a difference-maker on defense, but Watson’s potential on the offensive side of the floor is on another level.

“(Coach Miles) told me he wants me to run the team – be the second coach, be the coach on the floor,” Watson said. “You can’t hear the coach when you’re playing, so you have to be another coach on the floor. He wants me to go out and play my game.”

In Nebraska’s closed scrimmage against Wyoming, Watson showed off his smooth ball handling and feel for the game, scoring 20 points on 8-of-11 shooting, including 4-of-6 from long range.

In highlights from the scrimmage, Watson showed off a smooth ability to get into

the lane and create for teammates — the kind of skill and feel on the court that is innate.

Watson grew up in a family of guards. One brother played at Southern Indiana, the other, Demetri McCamey was an All-Big Ten player at Illinois.

“People just told me to play my game,” Watson said. “They said ‘play your game, do what you can do, and you should be OK.’ I’ve just been trying to get stronger with the physical part.

“My brothers, both of my brothers, they played basketball – one went to Southern Indiana, and they both know the game and them pushing me, and just working out at the gym and being tough on me. I don’t know where the passing comes from, it just comes natural.”

The key for Watson will be holding up to the grind of the Big Ten. He knows he needs to get bigger and stronger, but many are bullish on Watson’s future as he develops.

“If his body takes off and he puts on a good 15 or 20 pounds by his sophomore year, look out because he knows how to play basketball and he can make winning plays,” 247Sports national basketball analyst Jerry Meyer said. “He has a feel for when a guy is hot to get him the ball. He has a high basketball IQ.”

As you like to see in a point guard, Watson said the reason he enjoyed the team’s trip to Spain was because he got to know

his teammates better off the court. More importantly, though, he got to know his teammates’ tendencies – where to put guys in a position to be successful – when to keep feeding a shooter and when to take over and be a scorer.

“I feel like we’re getting used to each other, knowing everybody’s strengths and weaknesses – that’s the main thing, everybody getting closer with one another,” Watson said. “That’s what we’ve been working on – chemistry.

“Sometimes you can make plays even if you don’t know the person, but it’s better if you know a guy is going to be here, or what a guy might be able to do.”

“I feel like we’re getting used to each other, knowing everybody’s strengths and weaknesses – that’s the main thing, everybody getting closer with one another. That’s what we’ve been working on – chemistry.”

**Glynn Watson
NU freshman guard**

ELDER STATESMAN

Shavon Shields leads young Huskers

Story by Shane G. Gilster • Photo by Joe Mixan

Last year was a tough pill to swallow for Shavon Shields and the Husker men's basketball team. Expectations were through the roof for a team that was coming off their first NCAA Tournament appearance since 1998.

"It was very hard on me personally," Shields said. "It was a tough year after the success we had the year before. I really think the expectations hurt us last year."

The pressure of being ranked in the preseason top-25 with lofty goals to win the Big Ten conference along with player-of-the-year candidate Terran Petteway, got to NU and they couldn't recover, finishing a disappointing 13-18 and 5-14 in the Big Ten.

"We just need to enjoy playing more instead of looking at it as a burden with expectations," said Shields who is a team captain for the third year.

Last season, the 6-foot-7 swingman from Olathe, Kansas averaged 15.4 points and 6 rebounds per game. He was first or second on the team in scoring, rebounding and assists. He also had nine games of at least 20 points and was ninth in the Big Ten in scoring.

Even though his stats were better than in his sophomore year, it didn't seem that Shields looked as effective or as comfortable as he did during that magical run in 2013-14.

The Huskers lacked that outside shooting threat, especially from 3pt range. Not having that outside shooting threat made it hard for Shields to do what he does best.

"It was hard because I like to slash to the hoop and when we didn't have that outside threat, the defense would close down those driving lanes," Shields said.

So will he and the Huskers have that outside shooting help this season? According to Shields they have some capable players that can hit those shots.

"I think having guys like Benny (Parker), Tai (Webster) and Andrew (White III) who are shooting the ball well outside will help spread the floor a lot," Shields said.

If you also add in some talented freshman who can score, Shields should see his scoring average be the best in his four seasons at NU.

He is currently 25th on NU's career scoring list with 1,127 points, and is the first 1,000-point scorer to return since 2007-08.

Shields has made 82-straight starts dating all the way back to his freshman year and should finish his career in NU's top-10 with points, rebounds and starts.

All that experience hopefully rubs off on his teammates, many

of whom will make their debut on the court this season for the Huskers.

"We have a lot more freshman so they will need help in learning how to do things in the program," Shields said.

"When I was a freshman, my mentor was Brandon Ubel. He was there to help me learn the ropes. He took me under his wing if I had a long day. He found ways to pick me up and to always be there for me. So I try doing those same things to our freshmen."

The last two years, Shields benefited from having Petteway play alongside him. The two complemented each other and both loved to take the ball to the hole and score. That is what made the Huskers so successful two seasons ago.

With Petteway gone, NU is looking for Kansas transfer Andrews White III to fill in. Shields sees White III as a more versatile player.

"They are two different players," said Shields when asked how White III compared to Petteway. "Andrew can shoot, rebound, and can guard multiple positions. When Terran was here, he was that go-to guy. My role will definitely be more of that."

So expect this year's version of the Nebraska basketball team to have a totally different feel with the number of old and new players having prominent roles.

"We have a different look than what we have been the last two years; we don't have Terran, Walt, Dave, Moses or Leslee. But I think Bennie, Andrew and Ty can step in and fill their new roles," Shields said.

Regardless if those players can come in and play effectively, NU will still rely on Shields to carry the team and will be their number one guy.

"I think that he can score a whole bunch for us," NU head coach Tim Miles said of Shields. "I think as he improves his outside shot, he's only going to get better and better."

He's underrated and deservedly so. But I think he has a chance to be an NBA player."

If professional basketball doesn't happen, Shields won't have trouble finding a job off the court. When he graduates from Nebraska in May of 2016, he should finish his career as one of the most honored student-athletes in program history.

Last season, Shields was a first-team Academic All-American, becoming the first Husker men's basketball player to have that honor.

He has also been a finalist for the Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar Award and is a two-time Academic All-Big Ten selection.



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NEBRASKA MEN'S BASKETBALL 2015-16 ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown (Prev School)
0	Tai Webster	G	6-4	196	Jr.	Auckland, New Zealand
1	Anton Gill	G	6-3	191	Jr.	Raleigh, North Carolina
3	Andrew White III	G	6-7	216	Jr.	Richmond, Virginia
4	Johnny Trueblood	G	6-4	195	Fr.	Omaha, Nebraska
5	Glynn Watson Jr.	G	6-0	165	Fr.	Bellwood, Illinois
10	Jack McVeigh	F	6-8	210	Fr.	Cabarita Beach, NSW, Australia
11	Bakari Evelyn	G	6-2	178	Fr.	Detroit, Michigan
12	Michael Jacobson	F	6-8	222	Fr.	Waukeg, Iowa
15	Malcolm Laws	G	6-1	190	So.	Orlando, Florida
20	Tanner Borchardt	F	6-8	275	Fr.	Gothenburg, Nebraska
23	Nick Fuller	F	6-7	204	So.	Sun Prairie, Wisconsin
24	Jake Hammond	F	6-10	235	So.	Comanche, Oklahoma
30	Ed Morrow	F	6-7	225	Fr.	Chicago, Illinois
31	Shavon Shields	F	6-7	225	Sr.	Olathe, Kansas
32	Benny Parker	G	5-9	175	Sr.	Kansas City, Kansas

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Assistant Coach - Phil Beckner
Assistant Coach - Kenya Hunter
Assistant Coach - Jim Molinari
Director of Operations - Teddy Owens
Video Coordinator - Gregory Eaton
Administrative Coordinator - Brett Sapp
Graduate Manager - Ali Farokhmanesh
Strength Coach - Tim Wilson
Office Associate - Sheryl Burbach



0
TAI WEBSTER
6-4 • Junior • Guard

Webster came to Nebraska two years ago saddled with recruiting hype and high expectations. He's had flashes here and there but has yet to be the scoring guard many expected. Nebraska needs Webster to become more of a scoring threat, around 8-12 points a game, or significantly more than his career 2.9 average. Webster's among the hardest workers and most committed players in the offseason.



1
ANTON GILL
6-3 Jr. G

Gill announced in April he was joining Nebraska after deciding to transfer from Louisville. He gives Miles another former Top 50 recruit (joining Andrew White) and somebody who can also provide a perimeter threat, but not until 2016-17. Gill, per NCAA transfer rules, must sit out this season. He has two years of eligibility remaining after averaging two points and 7.8 minutes in two seasons with the Cardinals.



3
ANDREW WHITE III
6-7 Jr. G/F

Finally, Nebraska fans can see what a difference White, the transfer from Kansas, can give to a Husker offense in need of a perimeter scoring boost. Nebraska ranked No. 337 among 345 NCAA Division teams last season in shooting 28.4 percent on threes, and White has been on-point in preseason practices and scrimmage from beyond the arc. But he's also a force on the boards, something an under-sized Nebraska team will need from its backcourt.



4
JOHNNY TRUEBLOOD
6-4 • Freshman • Guard

A recruited walk-on, Trueblood scored 1,213 career points at Elkhorn South High School. He led the Storm to the Class B state championship and 21-5 record, but missed Nebraska's trip to Spain, and much of summer practices, because of an illness. Trueblood has been healthy for fall practices, though.



5
GLYNN WATSON
6-0 • Freshman • Guard

One of the prized recruits of Miles' 2015 class, Watson is a dynamic playmaker and scorer, the type of point guard Nebraska arguably hasn't had since the days of Tyrone Lue in the 1990s. Watson is an exception passer and good perimeter scorer who can also get to the rim. Still, he's not the defender that Benny Parker is, a reason Parker may start; however, Miles said he could play Watson and Parker together, too.



10
JACK McVEIGH
6-7 • Freshman • Forward

A native of Australia, McVeigh is a recruit of former Nebraska assistant coach Chris Harriman, who's now at New Mexico. McVeigh has an extensive international basketball background, having played on the Australian U-19 team in the Worlds Championships in Greece over the summer. He's a needed three-point threat, and with a 7-foot wingspan, can even play center when Nebraska goes to a smaller lineup.



11
BAKARI EVELYN
6-2 • Freshman • Guard

Evelyn is a versatile guard who signed with Nebraska during the late spring signing period. He averaged 25.4 points, 5.3 rebounds and 4.3 assists during a shortened season at Hillcrest Academy in Arizona last season, because the Detroit native wasn't cleared to transfer to Gilbert Christian. Evelyn spent his first three seasons at a small school, Southfield Christian in Michigan.

1-on-1

With Head Men's Basketball Coach Tim Miles

Q: What's a realistic expectation for these freshmen? Will they collectively be able to shoulder the load?

A: "I believe they've all competed at high levels at different times, whether it be Jack McVeigh in the World Games or Bakari Evelyn winning state championships with his high school team, and then those other guys being a part of the Under Armour and EYBL leagues that are very highly competitive, and having success. Michael Jacobson's team was good; Ed Morrow's Mac Irvin Fire team was good; Glynn Watson's team was really good with the Illinois Wolves. That summer circuit stuff has really been good proving ground for these guys coming in as freshmen. We just can't have them all playing bad on the same day."

Q: Including these freshmen and the guys you're about to sign in November, how confident are you in the recruiting foundation you've laid out for the program?

A: "I'm very confident in our recruiting process, and I'm excited about the two commitments we already have verbally. We still need some more size. We all know that, and that's obviously 1-A on the thing, but I like the skill level we're bringing in. I like the head and the heart of these guys. I think we're on the right track to where we want to be. Now, are we a complete team at this point in time? No. We had such an exodus last year with graduation and the early entries that there's a little retraction there. Not retraction in talent, but retraction in experience, retraction in size and physicality. But that doesn't mean these guys can't find another way to win and another way to play good defense and another way to rebound the ball."

Q: How much offseason study did you give to teams who have played small in the past, and what did you glean from it?

A: "I've played small in the past, so I didn't look at anybody but my own stuff, really. I've got the playing small stuff down. It's the playing big stuff ..."

Q: Serious question: Why is finding a big man so difficult, not just here, but in general?

A: "For me, personally, I want a big man that one, you love to have a big that can anchor your offense. Aleks Maric was one of those guys. Brian Diaz was one of those guys. A guy you can throw it to and he's going to have his back to the basket. But in my book, those guys also, with the way the game is today, defending and building your defense around your screen-and-roll schemes, that guy is a central figure. There is a certain way we do it that we feel comfortable with that we know that can work against almost any opponent, and if he doesn't fit the mold and if he doesn't have the ability to move with those guys, then we have a real problem on our hands. You can only change your schemes so much. You can't have nine ways to defend screen and roll. You can have five, but you can't have nine, and if you don't have a big guy that's a little bit mobile, then you're really in trouble for my defensive system. So we have to recruit to that. That mobility matters as much as anything. As we look forward to how we build our program and what we do, we need a guy that has the size and athleticism and physicality, but he also has to have the feet to get us to where we need to be."

Q: Last year didn't go as expected. What did you learn as a coach

from that experience?

A: “My mistake was I didn’t work harder at a connection with our team, and our team within our team, hard enough, early enough. I just assumed we were in a good spot, and that was a big mistake. I thought we were OK, and again, like I’ve said before, we were never OK. That’s not the fault of the kids. That’s on me.”

Q: You mentioned at Big Ten Media Day you firmly believe Shavon Shields can be an NBA player. Why do you believe that?

A: “He looks great. He just plays really good all the time. He’s in the right spots defensively, he’s making the right decisions offensively, he’s making more threes than ever. I think in one practice he started with four straight made threes, and then drove for an and-one layup and another layup. That’s fairly effective. That either tells you our defense needs to shape up in a hurry or Shavon is really in a good place. I think it’s a lot of one and a little of the other.”

Q: What makes Andrew White such a good role model and teammate?

A: “He’s a genuine person. He cares. He walks the walk. He works his butt off. He’s not a needy player. He’s a guy who wants to fit in and do his job. He wants to score the ball, which is why I recruited him. And I just think he, at the end of the day, is really going to help us out. He’s going to have ups and downs, now. It’s a new role for him, so I don’t want to put too much pressure on him. But at the same time I want to put enough pressure on him to be able to play the role effectively that he plays. I’m not going to stretch him out, but I’m going to let him know he’s going to get shots and we need him mentally ready to go out and be productive every night.

Q: Ed Morrow said he never lifted weights in high school. What could he look like after spending a couple of years under strength coach Tim Wilson?

A: “A physical specimen, like a bigger Branden Dawson (former Michigan State player). I really think he could look like that.”

Q: Is Jake Hammond getting closer to contributing more minutes?

A: “Yeah, he’s getting closer, but right now I figure that will be a three-headed monster, with Jake Hammond, Ed Morrow and Michael Jacobson, with Michael probably most ready to play some power forward also. And who knows? Against smaller teams, we could play Jack McVeigh in there, too.”

Q: What’s it mean to you to see Pinnacle Bank Arena sell out for a third-straight season, given last year’s disappointment?

A: “Our fans, even after last year’s disappointment, and even after the year before, in 2014, have been just phenomenal to us. They’ve been so gracious and they show up and they’re loud. Our fans, I think, are realizing that they truly can make a difference in winning or losing basketball games. They can come and be loud and make an intimidating environment for our opponents, and our guys draw more inspiration and more energy from that, and it makes them play better. It’s an amazing deal. They see that and they feel that in Pinnacle Bank. It’s a tremendous facility. Our administration has done a great job pricing tickets to a point where they’re affordable for almost anybody. It’s just a matter of getting to the game and making it a priority and saying, ‘We’re going to support this young group, we’re going to watch them grow throughout the years, and we’re going to see these guys do something special.’”



12
MICHAEL JACOBSON
6-8 • Freshman • Forward

Jacobson is a leading candidate to see significant minutes in Nebraska’s frontcourt as a true freshman. His strength is rebounding, but he’s a decent perimeter threat, too. The problem for Jacobson was a summer stress fracture that resulted in foot surgery and sidelined him for nearly 8 weeks. He may not be full speed for the first couple of weeks of the seasons, but will still likely play some minutes before working his way to more time.



15
MALCOLM LAWS
6-1 • Sophomore • Guard

Laws is a transfer walk-on but is eligible to play immediately. A native of Orlando, he played for former NBA coach Michael Curry at Florida Atlantic, also as a walk-on. He played in four games as a true freshman and saw limited action in Nebraska’s summer trip to Spain. Laws is a graduate of Winter Park High School, where he was a member of three state championship teams.



23
NICK FULLER
6-7 So. F

Fuller saw more action down the stretch last season, when he averaged 4.9 points on 53 percent shooting and 3.8 rebounds over his four appearances. Now in his third year in the Husker program, the left-handed shooting Fuller is eyeing a more extensive role but will have to battle several newcomers in the rotation.



24
JAKE HAMMOND
6-10 So. C

Hammond played last season when in reality, he probably should have redshirted. As a true freshman, Hammond played a total of a mere 33 minutes. He’s up to 234 pounds, has shaved time off his agility runs and feels more confident, and as Nebraska’s tallest player, by far, he will have every opportunity to secure a starting role. But he’s also still developing.



30
ED MORROW, Jr.
6-7 Fr. F

Ed Morrow, the son of former Nebraska football walk-on Ed Morrow, Sr., comes to Nebraska from Chicago Simeon, where he helped his team to two state titles. A top 100 recruit, Morrow had more than 40 Division I offers and was a significant signee for Miles and his staff. Morrow is athletic, can rebound and score inside, and given Nebraska’s overall lack of height, will vie for major minutes at the five position.



31
SHAVON SHIELDS
6-7 • Senior • Guard/Forward

Shields is the Huskers’ leading returning scorer and rebounder, and is playing better than ever, according to coaches and teammates. That includes head coach Tim Miles, who says Shields can play in the NBA. Most importantly, Shields has regained his three-point shooting touch in practice after inexplicably dropping to 19.5 percent shooting from long range last season. He’s a force on the boards and very difficult to stop from penetrating and getting to the rim. If there’s a player Nebraska can most ill afford to lose, it’s Shields.



32
BENNY PARKER
5-9 • Senior • Guard

Just because freshman star Glynn Watson is now in the program doesn’t mean it will be easy to unseat Parker, a veteran and leader, from his starting job. He’s Nebraska’s best defender, and his 43 career starts are only second to Shavon Shields on Nebraska’s roster. Parker has worked immensely in the offseason on his perimeter shot, something he’ll need to improve to keep teams from playing off him.



Run & Gun

NU scores most points of the Tim Miles era

Ed Morrow goes hard to the glass against Mississippi Valley State.



PHOTOS BY MITCH OTTO/HUSKERS

Above: Nick Fuller pushes the ball up





HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

er makes a pass against Mississippi Valley State. Below: Glynn Watson o the court for the Huskers.



2015-16 Men's Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 14	Miss Valley St	W, 97-51
Nov. 17	at Villanova	8:30 p.m.
Nov. 19	Delaware State	8 p.m.
Nov. 22	SE Louisiana	7 p.m.
Nov. 24	AR-Pine Bluff	8 p.m.
Nov. 27	Cincinnati	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 1	Miami (FL)	9 p.m.
Dec. 5	Abil Christian	2 p.m.
Dec. 9	at Creighton	8 p.m.
Dec. 13	Rhode Island	2 p.m.
Dec. 20	Samford	7 p.m.
Dec. 22	PV A&M	8 p.m.
Dec. 30	Northwestern	4 p.m.
Jan. 2	Indiana	4 p.m.
Jan. 5	at Iowa	9 p.m.
Jan. 9	at Rutgers	5 p.m.
Jan. 12	Minnesota	9 p.m.
Jan. 16	at Illinois	2:30 p.m.
Jan. 20	at Mich. State	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 23	Michigan	2 p.m.
Jan. 30	at Purdue	4:30 p.m.
Feb. 3	Maryland	8:30 p.m.
Feb. 6	Rutgers	2 p.m.
Feb. 10	at Wisconsin	7 p.m.
Feb. 13	Penn State	6 p.m.
Feb. 17	at Indiana	8:30 p.m.
Feb. 20	Ohio State	TBD
Feb. 25	at Penn State	7 p.m.
Mar. 1	Purdue	8 p.m.
Mar. 6	at Northwestern	2 p.m.

Nebraska 97, Mississippi Valley State 51

Nebraska shot 54 percent from the field in its 46-point opening win over Mississippi Valley State on Saturday at the Pinnacle Bank Arena. A pair of newcomers led the Huskers in scoring as transfer Andrew White III scored 18 points and freshman Jack McVeigh added 16 points. Senior Shavon Shields added 13 points and Nick Fuller came off the bench to contribute 10 points and nine rebounds. All of the Huskers saw action in the game and only Benny Parker and Johnny Trueblood failed to find a hoop. No player saw more than 22 minutes of action in the rout as Jake Hammond, Tai Webster, White, Parker and Shields got the start for the Huskers. As a team, Nebraska made 10 of 22 three-points shots.

"Tonight, I thought the kids played a good ballgame," NU coach Tim Miles said afterwards. "I was especially proud of Nick Fuller. He's been a guy that was kind of on the outside of the rotation, went down to the scout team, worked his way back in and really looked as strong as I've seen him play. He rebounded above the rim four or five times, ends up with 10 points and nine rebounds and that was really impressive."



Leading the Way

Rachel Theriot returns from injury

Story by Shane G. Gilster • Photo by Joe Mixan

Senior Rachel Theriot doesn't look back at what might have been last season.

A preseason candidate for the Wade, Naismith and Wooden national player-of-the-year awards, Theriot was having a great season through the first 21 games.

Averaging 16.2 points, 4.2 rebounds and 5.2 assists, the six-foot point guard from Middleburg Heights, Ohio, led NU to a top-15 national ranking and a 17-4 record. But then the run ended for her and her team in February.

Theriot suffered a foot injury on Feb. 3 and missed the final 11 games of the season. Without her in the lineup, the Huskers struggled and went 4-7.

That just showed how important she was to the team, which is why it is imperative she recovers fully and regains her All-Big Ten form this season.

"It starts with Rachel Theriot," said NU head coach Connie Yori about her team's outlook during Big Ten media days in October. "She is back playing at full capacity. That's only happened here in the last about two weeks for us. Probably not quite in the condition we want her to be, but she's getting there. We were a really different team last year when we lost her to an injury."

According to Theriot, she feels she is back to 100 percent now but is still getting treatments for precautionary reasons.

But it was a tough setback because she had been injury-free the first three years at Nebraska.

"It was a pretty rare injury, tearing a ligament in my foot," Theriot said. "It happened in practice when I jumped and I felt something pop. I was fine walking around then it randomly started hurting. I didn't cry so I guess that was a good sign. I tried to walk it off and get back to practice, but I just couldn't do some of things I wanted to do."

Theriot and the NU coaching staff hoped the pain would subside and that it wouldn't be a serious injury but unfortunately she needed surgery a few weeks later.

"We hoped that the pain would go away and get better in a few days but it didn't," Theriot said. "I was pushing to make it back last year, in my mind I wanted to do it, but my foot just wasn't able to."

The one good thing that came out of the injury was that it helped give some of the younger girls an opportunity to play. Freshman

Natalie Romeo took over the starting role vacated by Theriot and did well.

Romeo is just one of several young players who will be counted on to help Theriot lead a Husker team that is full of potential.

"We are a completely different team this year than last," Theriot said. "The experience and leadership isn't there but we have a young talented team. We have more "bigs" that are post players and guards that are more experienced."

Theriot, who is one of four seniors on the team, is without a doubt the leader and best player. She not only has to be the main scorer but also lead and help the younger players.

"I embrace the fact that I am the leader and the number one scoring threat on this team," said Theriot who excels at the pick and roll, taking jump shots or dishing it out to teammates.

"When I was a freshman, Lindsey Moore helped mentor me by being an example on the court. That is where I exceed at doing ... being a role model and a leader that way. I may not be the most talkative off the court but on it I am different."

If the Huskers are to make another run at the NCAA Tournament and be competitive in the Big Ten conference, a healthy and effective Theriot will have to play the best basketball of her career.

If the preseason predictions are correct she will be able to do just that. Here is a list:

- Wade Watch List
- Wooden Award
- Naismith Trophy Women's Watch List
- Lieberman Award Watch List
- COSIDA Academic All-America
- Senior CLASS Award Nominee
- All-Big Ten

The injury derailed any major honors for Theriot as a junior but she still made the All-Big Ten second-team.

Regardless what happens this season, Theriot has established herself as one of the best players in Nebraska women's basketball history.

She currently is ranked No. 30 at NU with 1,023 career points, and is tied for fifth with 444 career assists.

She also holds the Nebraska single-season record with 234 assists.



NEBRASKA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL 2015-16 ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown (Prev School)
4	Kyndal Clark	G	5-7	Sr.	Webb City, Missouri
5	Natalie Romeo	G	5-7	So.	Martinez, California
11	Esther Ramacieri	G	5-8	Jr.	Repentigny, Quebec, Canada
12	Emily Wood	G	5-5	So.	Salina, Kansas
22	Allie Havers	C	6-5	Jr.	Mattawan, Michigan
24	Maddie Simon	F	6-2	Fr.	Lincoln, Nebraska
31	Anya Kalenta	F	6-3	Sr.	Minsk, Belarus
32	Jessica Shepherd	F	6-4	Fr.	Fremont, Nebraska
33	Rachel Theriot	G	6-0	Sr.	Middleburg Heights, Ohio
34	Jasmine Cincore	G	5-10	So.	Arlington, Tennessee
43	Rachel Blackburn	F	6-3	Fr.	Leavenworth, Kansas
50	Darrien Washington	F	6-2	RFr.	Oakland, California
52	Alicia Ostrander	F	6-3	Sr.	Gordon, Nebraska

COACHES

Connie Yori - Head Coach
Britney Brown - Assistant Coach
Ashley Ford - Assistant Coach
Amy Stephens - Assistant Coach
Meghin Williams - Graduate Assistant Manager
Rose Sousek - Women's Basketball Office Secretary
Katie Adams - Administrative Assistant
Dayna Finch - Director of Operations
Rusty Ruffcorn - Women's Basketball Strength Coach
Julie Tuttle - Women's Basketball Athletic Trainer

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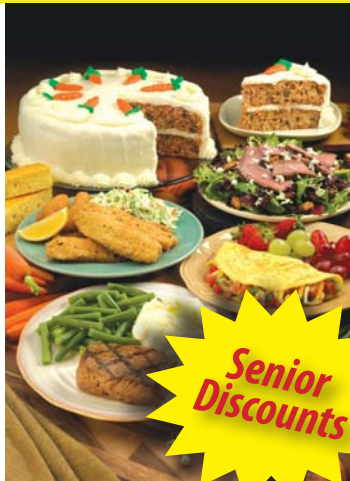


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4
KYNDAL CLARK
5-7 • Senior • Guard

Clark was a big addition to Nebraska's recruiting class, and her relationship with assistant coach Amy Stephens, who coached Clark at Drake, was key. Clark is a fifth-year graduate transfer who is playing her final year of eligibility after recovering from a major knee injury. Clark is a terrific outside threat who made 116 three-pointers her junior season while shooting 41.1 percent from beyond the arc.



5
NATALIE ROMEO
5-7 • Sophomore • Guard

When Rachel Theriot missed the final 11 games of last season with an ankle injury, Romeo stepped up, averaging 18.3 points and 5.3 three per game during postseason play (the Big Ten Tournament and NCAA Tournament). She averaged nine points a game for the season, which included an eight-game stretch at the end of non-conference play she missed because of injury. In addition to being a three-point threat, she's a good passer and can help spread the floor.



11
ESTHER RAMACIERI
5-8 • Junior • Guard

Ramacieri, from Repentigny, Quebec, Canada, played in 17 games last season, including her first career start against Penn State. She's a defensive-minded guard who's yet to make a field goal, on nine attempts, through her first two seasons. But Yori said Ramacieri is a tough defender and one of the best communicators on the team.



12
EMILY WOOD
5-5 • Sophomore • Guard

Wood joined the program as a walk-one before last season and appeared in 10 games, scoring two points. Because of injuries, Wood, a native of Salina, Kansas, started all four games of Nebraska's exhibition tour of Australia over the summer, averaging 4.8 points, 2.8 rebounds and two assists over 26 minutes per game.



22
ALLIE HAVERS
6-5 • Junior • Center

Her physicality still isn't quite where Yori would like it to be, but Havers has made significant strides after averaging four points and 2.8 rebounds over the first two years of her career. "She has a lot better understanding of what we're trying to do," Yori said. "She doesn't have to think so much, is making better decisions and just has a better feel and better understanding of our system and how we do things."



24
MADDIE SIMON
6-2 • Freshman • Forward

Simon joins Jessica Shepard as Nebraska natives in the 2015 recruiting class. The 2015 Nebraska Gatorade High School Player of the Year, Simon averaged 18.1 points, 7.2 rebounds and 2.7 assists while playing all five positions for Lincoln Pius X High School. She's the No. 22 ranked player in the nation at her position, according to ESPN, and was a multi-sport star in high school.



31
ANYA KALENTA
6-3 • Senior • Forward

A language barrier last season slowed Kalenta, a native of Minsk, Belarus, but Yori has seen enough progress to believe Kalenta can contribute more than the 12 games she played as a junior college transfer. "She's really got a knack for scoring," Yori said. "She's got kind of a funky-looking shot,

1-on-1

With Assistant Coach Amy Stephens

Q: Since you left Nebraska after your first stint as assistant coach, and now returned, how much has Connie Yori transformed the women's basketball program?

A: "Connie has completely transformed the women's basketball program. When I arrived with her 14 years ago, the program was in some disarray. She has led Nebraska women's basketball back to NCAA status and more. With two Sweet 16 runs in the last six years and seven of the last nine years taking teams to the NCAA tournament, Nebraska women's basketball is back on the map."

Q: How have Connie, you and the rest of the staff been able to attract such highly-rated recruits to Lincoln?

A: "A whole lot of hard work, passionate recruiting and working hard to identify student-athletes that are a right fit for the program. The material things, like the new Hendricks Training Center and Pinnacle Bank Arena, that coaches can't control in recruiting are in place at Nebraska to help our coaching staff succeed. The Nebraska Athletic Administration is committed to helping us succeed as coaches by striving to provide the resources we need to recruit at the highest level."

Q: You helped coordinate a defense that led the Big Ten in scoring defense (60.9) points last season. To what do you attribute that success?

A: "A team effort in coaching the defense takes place, it's just not one or two coaches, it's all the coaches. Each assistant works on scouting reports and has their individual suggestions. Connie watches film and has a defensive system in place, therefore we all work together to put the best game plans in place that allow our players to be successful. Players also have to buy into the system. Our players are smart, they take pride in reading the scouting reports and they work hard to understand the game plans we put in front of them each game. When all of this comes together there is a really positive outcome for our team."

Q: Connie has talked about dusting off the playbook for post players. How does having true post presences, like Jessica Shepard and Rachel Blackburn, help Nebraska from a defensive standpoint?

A: "The biggest key is that by having post players that can guard 1-on-1 in the post, it allows you to defend and rebound better. When you have to double team in the low post, you become more vulnerable to giving something up offensively. It also helps you be a better rebounding team."

Q: Shepard has seemingly been a part of the program forever, given her early commitment. Is she prepared to handle the hype and high expectations, especially being a local player?

A: "Absolutely. Jessica has the values, the family support and

the support of her coaches to handle high expectations. Jessica also has a deep appreciation for the state of Nebraska, the Nebraska fans and the University of Nebraska from growing up in this state, so she understands what it means to play for your home university.”

Q: You coached Kyndal Clark at Drake. How much of an impact will she have as a fifth-year transfer?

A: “Kyndal has the ability to impact our team because she has experience at the division one level and she has a skill set that makes our team better, i.e. passing skills, 3-point shooting ability, so she will help extend defenses. Her maturity and poise have also made a positive impact on our team.”

Q: What kind of work ethic and desire does Clark have, considering she fought back from a pretty major knee surgery to play another year at another school?

A: “Kyndal’s dream has been to compete at the highest level and she’s able to do that now at Nebraska. She has a strong work ethic, a high competitive drive and high basketball IQ, all of which helps us be better as a team.”

Q: What does Britney Brown bring to Connie’s coaching staff? What impact will she have?

A: “Coach Brown is our new recruiting coordinator. She brings organizational skills, a strong work ethic and, most importantly, a team/program-first attitude. She is a genuine relationship person who connects with our players, co-workers, administrators, recruits and recruits parents. Coach Brown has a very good basketball mind because she has been an understudy of Coach Sherri Coale’s at Oklahoma and a part of Final Four teams as an athlete.”

Q: Do you have aspirations of again becoming a head coach, and if so, what will you take from what you’ve learned from Connie this second go-round?

A: “My aspirations are to help young women be the best they can be on and off the court, to mentor the right way and to help our student-athletes understand what it truly means to be a part of something bigger than yourself at Nebraska. I have found you can have an enormous impact as an assistant coach at this level, and I love that role.”

Q: What challenges will this team face in the Big Ten this season?

A: “Our challenges will be overcoming inexperience. We have a young team, having graduated four senior starters. Offensively, we have added more of an inside presence and I believe our three-point shooting has improved but we will have to continue to work to improve defensively as a team. We are not the same team defensively because of our youth, but this team, with more reps and experience, can be a very good defensive team. I also believe this team will be fun to watch because each week you will see improvement.”

but it goes in. She scores around the basketball pretty well, and she’s become more physical.”



32
JESSICA SHEPARD

6-4 • Freshman • Forward

The highly-touted Shepard, who committed to Nebraska her freshman year of high school, didn’t disappoint in her exhibition debut, when she scored 29 points on 11-of-19 shooting against Nebraska-Kearney – all in 17 minutes. Not bad for somebody who’d just been cleared after recovering from ACL surgery. “You could tell I haven’t played in 10 months, but I felt pretty good out there playing,” Shepard said. “I’m getting back to where I was. I’m not in great basketball shape at this point.”



33
RACHEL THERIOT

6-0 • Senior • Guard

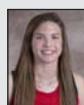
Nebraska desperately missed Theriot when she missed the final 11 games of last season with an ankle injury. Now, she’s healthy, and brings a career 11.6 points-per-game scoring average into her senior season. She averaged 16.5 points last season before her injury. “Those floaters that she hits, those are kind of fun,” Yori said. “There’s just not that many players in the country who have that shot even in their arsenal, let alone be able to make it at the rate she does.”



34
JASMINE CINCORE

5-10 • Sophomore • Guard

Tear’a Laudermill and Brandi Jeffery are gone, meaning Cincore enters her sophomore season with a chance to see more playing time and increase her role. A physical combo guard, she averaged 10 points, four rebounds and 2.3 assists per game during Nebraska’s exhibition tour of Australia over the summer. She has the ability to attack the paint and score at the basket, Yori said.



43
RACHEL BLACKBURN

6-3 • Freshman • Forward

Yori isn’t afraid to compare Blackburn to former Husker great Kelsey Griffin. That’s saying something. A Leavenworth, Kansas, native, Blackburn averaged 7.5 points and 6.8 rebounds in Nebraska’s four-game exhibition tour of Australia this summer. “We’re really, really excited about her,” Yori said. “We knew Rachel would be a good player, but at this point, she’s exceeded our expectations. She’s got a great mentality for the game. She is a worker. She grasps concepts. She is very high IQ for her age. She’s got size and length and toughness, and she’s a really good passer.”



50
DARRIEN WASHINGTON

6-2 • Freshman • Forward

Washington redshirted last season and now can join a lineup that will be among Yori’s tallest teams ever. Not since Cory Montgomery and Kelsey Griffin has Yori had what she calls a true post player, and now with Havers, Blackburn and Washington, she has many options. Washington averaged 5.5 points and 7.3 rebounds in Nebraska’s exhibition tour of Australia. Yori likes her size and mobility and ability to run the floor.



52
ALICIA OSTRANDER

6-3 • Freshman • Forward

Ostrander is a fifth-year senior for the Husker volleyball team who practiced with the basketball team over the summer and is expected to join Yori’s squad full-time by the time the Big Ten Conference season arrives. A native of Gordon, Neb., Ostrander averaged 18 points and 12 rebounds her senior year of high school. She earned first-team all-state Class C-1 honors.

Opening Day Rout

Huskers topple UA-Pine Bluff by 50 points



Freshman Rachel Blackburn dives for a loose ball while fellow freshman Jessica Shepard looks on.



PHOTOS BY MITCH

Above: Allie
Below: Nata





PHOTO/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Natalie Havers fights for a loose ball against Arkansas-Pine Bluff on Saturday. Natalie Romeo drives to the basket to score two of her 30 points.



2015-16 Women's Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 14	Ark.-Pine Bluff	W 96-46
Nov. 16	North Florida	7 p.m.
Nov. 21	N.C. Central	2 p.m.
Nov. 23	Southern	7 p.m.
Nov. 28	at UConn	Noon
Dec. 3	N.C. State	7 p.m.
Dec. 6	Creighton	2 p.m.
Dec. 8	Evansville	7 p.m.
Dec. 12	at California	7 p.m.
Dec. 19	N. Arizona	4 p.m.
Dec. 21	Arkansas State	7 p.m.
Dec. 31	Iowa	1 p.m.
Jan. 3	at Northwestern	1:30 p.m.
Jan. 7	at Maryland	6 p.m.
Jan. 10	Illinois	2 p.m.
Jan. 13	at Penn State	6 p.m.
Jan. 16	Rutgers	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 20	at Purdue	6 p.m.
Jan. 24	at Michigan	1 p.m.
Jan. 27	Wisconsin	7 p.m.
Jan. 30	at Rutgers	1 p.m.
Feb. 2	Penn State	7 p.m.
Feb. 7	at Indiana	1 p.m.
Feb. 11	at Minneapolis	7 p.m.
Feb. 14	Michigan State	3 p.m.
Feb. 18	at Ohio State	5 p.m.
Feb. 20 or 21	Purdue	TBA
Feb. 24	Indiana	7 p.m.
Feb. 28	Northwestern	TBA
Mar. 2-6	Big Ten Tourney	
Mar. 19-22	NCAA 1st & 2nd Rds	
Mar. 26-29	NCAA Regionals	

Nebraska 96, UA-Pine Bluff 46

Natalie Romeo and Jessica Shepard both produced record performances for a season opener, as the Nebraska women's basketball team rolled to a 96-46 win over Arkansas Pine Bluff on Saturday at Pinnacle Bank Arena. Romeo produced a Nebraska season-opening record 30 points, while adding four assists in just 26 minutes. Romeo hit 6-of-9 three-pointers, while connecting on 11-of-18 shots overall in a huge performance off the bench. Anticipated to be a regular starter for the Huskers, Romeo did not start on Saturday after missing multiple practices earlier in the week because of illness. Shepard, a 6-4 forward from Fremont, added to Nebraska's record-setting day by producing the most points, most rebounds and the first double-double by a freshman in a season opener in school history. Shepard finished with 24 points, 13 rebounds, three assists and three steals, becoming the first Husker freshman in history to score 20 points in a debut.



JOEMIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Seniors Rachel Theriot and Shavon Shields hold the key to how successful the Nebraska women's and men's basketball teams



are going to fare this season.





10 questions

with Dylan Utter

Story by Lanny Holstein • Action Photo by Garrett Ewald, Head Shot Courtesy of NU Media Relations

Q: What could a good November do for this program?

“It definitely would give us a good start for next year and something to work for in the offseason to show that we aren’t a bad team. We have just put some bad performances together, and we can really do it next year.”

Q: What does this offense do well when things are working?

“Probably just that balance between the run game and the pass game, for sure. When you get that run game going, it opens up a lot of things in the playbook. We’ve moved the chains pretty well on first down, and once you do that, it definitely opens up the playbook.”

Q: How much physicality does Zach Sterup bring to the guard spot with that unusual 6-foot-8 frame?

“He definitely transitioned to guard pretty well. We were talking about how he actually looked better at right guard than he did at tackle, so it was nice to see him able to contribute and have (Nick) Gates back in the lineup.”

Q: How challenging is that move to go from tackle to guard midseason?

“I guess I wouldn’t know since I’m not a tackle, but Sterup seemed to transition pretty well all week. It’s just kind of different because you have to learn different things. Stuff like the screen game he wasn’t really used to.”

5. What’s it like working with Ryne Reeves as your center?

“He’s always even keeled and knows what’s going on. He’s only taking one class to graduate right now, so he lives in the film room so he knows all the pressures that are coming. He’s putting in a lot of time, and it’s show-

ing on the field.”

Q: Do you like watching film with him because he’s already got it down?

“It helps because I am sort of a center too. We try to give each other help like if I see someone coming over and he makes the call, I’ll tell him to check this out over here. It’s kind of nice.”

Q: How much do you like what Imani Cross has done lately?

“Imani definitely helps back there. He’s not going to get tackled by one guy, so the fact the he can lower the shoulder and play with some swagger gives us some confidence.”

Q: What about his style do you like so much?

“He just runs so tough and puts his shoulder down. He’ll let the guy know when he runs him over to, so that’s kind of tough. You know when he’s back there and he has the ball in his hands, he is going to move forward. That’s what we want.”

Q: Do you notice who the running back is running behind you? It’s been a lot of different guys this year.

“Not really, not as much. We’ve talked about that in the game. We don’t know if Imani or (Terrell) Newby is in, but either way we are still going to block the same and get the run game going with whoever is back there.”

Q: What was your view of the Brandon Reilly game winning touchdown catch against Michigan State?

“When you are blocking you just kind of see the ball go through. After that, it’s just kind of up and down emotions. You aren’t sure if he was out of bounds or not, how that was going to pan out. It was good to see something go our way.”

Nebraska 31, Rutgers 14



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Clockwise from left: Ross Dzuris chases down Rutgers quarterback Chris Laviano. Linebacker Josh Banderas nearly records a tackle or a safety on Josh Hicks in the first quarter. Maliek Collins (7) tries to scoop up a fumble while Greg McMullen (90) also gives chase. Neither Husker was able to recover the ball and Rutgers regained possession. Linebacker Marcus Newby crushes Rutgers quarterback Chris Laviano. Nebraska didn't do an overly great job of defending the Scarlet Knight's Hail Mary attempt at the end of the first half, but Rutgers was not able to come down with it and trailed 21-7 at the break.

Photos by
Garrett Ewald/Huskers Illustrated

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Offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf congratulates Tommy Armstrong Jr. after a touchdown throw at Rutgers.

Bring on the Hawkeyes

Nebraska defense makes statement in road win

Story by Darren Ivy • Photo by Garrett Ewald

PISCATAWAY, N.J. – Following its biggest win of the season against Michigan State, Nebraska avoided a letdown at Rutgers on Saturday and won back-to-back games for the first time since last November.

Although, it definitely got interesting at times before the Huskers finally pulled away for a 31-14 victory before 45,606 fans at High-point Solutions Stadium.

The Huskers (5-6, 3-4 in the Big Ten) will now have their first bye week in preparation for a post-Thanksgiving battle with undefeated Iowa in Lincoln with a stake at a bowl game on the line for NU and a spot in the BCS Playoffs still alive for Hawkeyes.

“It feels good and I know the players feel good about that,” head coach Mike Riley said after the Rutgers game. “It certainly sets up this game with Iowa. It’s a big game for a lot of reasons, but for us they are really obvious. It’s a bowl opportunity. It’s playing another top ranked team. Just lots of stuff out there for us. Now with this win it sets the table for that.”

Against Rutgers, it was an every-other-drive success for the offense in the first half.

On its first possession, Nebraska came out and rushed six of its first eight plays, including a 32-yard touchdown run by tight end Cethan Carter on an end sweep on third and three. Drew Brown’s extra point made it 7-0 with 10:56 left in the first half. The Huskers gained 78 yards on that opening drive of the game, which would turn out to be their longest drive of the game.

On the Scarlet Knights’ first possession, Maliek Collins nearly

scooped up a fumbled direct snap to the Rutgers running back but missed the ball and it was recovered by the home team. After a punt, the Huskers started on their own 40-yard line instead of deep in Rutgers’ territory.

Reilly, who was the hero of last week’s game, was injured on Nebraska’s second possession of the game. The Huskers came up short by a yard on a Jordan Westerkamp catch on third down at midfield.

Reilly’s replacement, Lane Hovey, caught a key third down and one pass on NU’s third possession. He fumbled after getting tackled at the Rutgers’ 17-yard line, but was able to recover it. Two plays later, Armstrong connected with Jordan Westerkamp on a 15-yard completion to cap off the five-play, 45-yard drive. Brown’s extra point made it 14-0 with 2:39 left in the first quarter.

Chris Jones intercepted Chris Laviano’s pass on Rutgers’ third possession at the NU five-yard line.

The Huskers immediately went deep to Carter on a 40-yard pass completion. However, NU wasn’t able to convert another first down, but Sam Foltz did pin Rutgers at its own five-yard line.

NU’s defense forced a three-and-out and the Huskers were able to get the ball back at midfield. Following a six-yard run by Cross, Armstrong scrambled and was able to find a wide open Alonzo Moore for a 44-yard touchdown pass. The extra point made it 21-0 with 11:49 remaining in the second quarter.

That’s when NU’s offense stalled the rest of the first half.

A fumble by Armstrong that was recovered by Alex Lewis ended

NU's next drive.

Then, leading, 21-0, Armstrong overthrew Hovey and Anthony Cioffi intercepted it and returned it 51 yards to the Huskers' six-yard line. Offensive lineman Nick Gates saved a touchdown with a tackle.

Three plays later, Rutgers found the endzone on a run by Robert Martin with 1:17 left in the first half.

On NU's next possession, Armstrong threw another pass up for grabs after avoiding pressure that was also intercepted at the Scarlet Knights' 35-yard line by Saquan Hampton with 56 seconds left in the first half.

The Scarlet Knights got to the NU 36-yard line with a couple of completions, but then Collins was able to throw Laviano for a 10-yard sack with 24 seconds left in the first half.

After a couple short completions, the Scarlet Knights opted to throw a Hail Mary pass into the endzone instead of attempting a long field goal.

A Rutgers player got his hands on the ball, but wasn't able to come down with it and the first half ended with the Huskers leading 21-7.

As a team, NU had 71 rushing yards and 158 passing yards in the first half compared to 81 yards of total offense by Rutgers.

Rutgers made several first downs on its first possession of the second half, but NU's defense again made a big stop with a sack by Greg McMullen.

Armstrong's third interception on NU's first possession of the second half set up Rutgers at the NU 35-yard line. Laviano immediately connected with Leonte Carroo on a 30-yard pass.

The Rutgers then did a reverse throwback pass to Laviano for a five-yard touchdown to cut the deficit to 21-14.

After seeing its lead cut to seven points, NU appeared to go three-and-out, but Rutgers was called for a defensive holding penalty to keep the drive alive. Imani Cross made Rutgers pay with a 38-yard run to the 13-yard line. Armstrong hung tough as he took a shot delivering an 11-yard touchdown strike to Carter with 1:58 left in the third quarter. Armstrong laid on the field for several minutes before coming off the field.

NU's defense then held on three-straight plays and the Huskers stuffed out a fake punt attempt to set up the offense at the Rutgers' 31-yard line.

The offense wasn't able to pick up a first down, but Drew Brown was able to knock through a 44-yard field goal to extend it to a three-possession game with 14:50 left in the game.

Nebaska looked to add on to its lead with 5:56 left when Marcus Newby knocked away a ball and Josh Kalu returned it for a touchdown. However, after review, it was determined that Laviano's arm was coming forward. Rutgers struck on a 40-yard completion its next play to keep its hopes alive, but NU halted the drive.

"It was nice to get a good start," Riley said. "Then we made a bad play, they made a good play and got a touchdown before the half, which scared me a bit. The defense did a nice job all night long against Rutgers. We also did a nice job in covering their kicks. That was nice. Two big factors were obviously, we paid a lot of attention to during the week, was their receiver (Leonte) Carroo and what they would do with him and (Janarion) Grant, their returner. I thought we did a good job in those two areas. We made some good plays offensively in the first half and then kind of just made enough plays in the second half to put it away."

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Nebraska 31, Rutgers 14

Nov. 14, 2015 at High Point Solutions Stadium at Piscataway, N.J.

Attendance: 45,606

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	Total
Nebraska	14	7	7	3	31
Rutgers	0	7	7	0	14

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	V-H
1st	10:56	NEB - Carter, Cethan 32 yd run (Brown, Drew kick), 8-78 4:04	7 - 0
	02:39	NEB - Westerkamp, J. 15 yd pass from Armstrong Jr. (Brown, Drew kick), 5-45 2:25	14 - 0
2nd	11:49	NEB - Moore, Alonzo 44 yd pass from Armstrong Jr. (Brown, Drew kick), 2-50 0:45	21 - 0
	01:17	RU - Martin, Robert 1 yd run (Federico, Kyle kick), 3-6 1:23	21 - 7
3rd	06:03	RU - Laviano, Chris 5 yd pass from Grant, Janarion (Federico, Kyle kick), 2-35 0:39	21 - 14
	01:58	NEB - Carter, Cethan 11 yd pass from Armstrong Jr. (Brown, Drew kick), 8-75 4:05	28 - 14
4th	14:50	NEB - Brown, Drew 44 yd field goal, 4-4 0:39	31 - 14



GARRETT EWALD/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Nate Gerry seals the Nebraska victory with a late fourth-quarter interception as Jonathon Rose looks on.



Stanley Morgan Jr. celebrates Jordan Westerkamp's 15-yard touchdown catch in the first quarter.



Josh Kalu chases after Rutgers quarterback Chris Laviano.

Team Statistics

	NEB	RU
FIRST DOWNS	16	15
Rushing	7	7
Passing	8	8
Penalty	1	0
NET YARDS RUSHING	174	89
Rushing Attempts	38	39
Average Per Rush	4.6	2.3
Rushing Touchdowns	1	1
Yards Gained Rushing	200	155
Yards Lost Rushing	26	66
NET YARDS PASSING	188	170
Completions-Attempts-Int	14-21-3	14-28-2
Average Per Attempt	9.0	6.1
Average Per Completion	13.4	12.1
Passing Touchdowns	3	1
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	362	259
Total offense plays	59	67
Average Gain Per Play	6.1	3.9
Fumbles: Number-Lost	2-0	2-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	2-15	4-23
PUNTS-YARDS	5-202	6-225
Average Yards Per Punt	40.4	37.5
Net Yards Per Punt	39.4	36.8
Inside 20	4	0
50+ Yards	0	0
Touchbacks	0	0
Fair catch	2	3
KICKOFFS-YARDS	6-369	3-184
Average Yards Per Kickoff	61.5	61.3
Net Yards Per Kickoff	40.0	41.3
Touchbacks	2	1
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	1-4-0	1-5-0
Average Per Return	4.0	5.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	2-35-0	4-79-0
Average Per Return	17.5	19.8
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	2-24-0	3-61-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	30:01	29:59
1st Quarter	9:12	5:48
2nd Quarter	6:28	8:32
3rd Quarter	7:42	7:18
4th Quarter	6:39	8:21
Third-Down Conversions	5 of 11	3 of 14
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 0	0 of 4
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	2-2	2-2
Touchdowns	2-2	2-2
Field goals	0-2	0-2
Sacks By: Number-Yards	6-41	1-14
PAT Kicks	4-4	2-2
Field Goals	1-1	0-1
Points off turnovers	0	14



Individual Statistics

Nebraska

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Cross, Imani	20	94	4	90	0	38	4.5
Ozigbo, Devine	2	33	0	33	0	30	16.5
Carter, Cethan	1	32	0	32	1	32	32.0
Moore, Alonzo	1	7	0	7	0	7	7.0
Janovich, Andy	2	5	0	5	0	3	2.5
Newby, Terrell	1	4	0	4	0	4	4.0
Armstrong Jr.	7	19	17	2	0	11	0.3
Reilly, Brandon	1	2	0	2	0	2	2.0
TEAM	3	0	5	-5	0	0	-1.7
Lewis, Alex	0	4	0	4	0	0	0.0
Totals	38	200	26	174	1	38	4.6

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Armstrong Jr.	14-21-3	188	3	44	1
Totals	14-21-3	188	3	44	1

Receiving	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Carter, Cethan	4	57	1	40
Westerkamp, J.	3	32	1	15
Reilly, Brandon	2	16	0	16
Newby, Terrell	2	11	0	6
Moore, Alonzo	1	44	1	44
Hovey, Lane	1	19	0	17
Turner, Jamal	1	9	0	9
Totals	14	188	3	44

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Foltz, Sam	5	202	40.4	49	4	0
Totals	5	202	40.4	49	4	0

Returns	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Westerkamp, J.	1	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jones, Chris	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Morgan Jr., S.	0	0	0	2	35	22	0	0	0
Gerry, Nate	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	24	24
Totals	1	4	4	2	35	22	2	24	24

Field goals	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
Brown, Drew	4th	14:50	44 yards	Good

Kickoffs	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Brown, Drew	6	369	61.5	2	0

All-purpose	Run	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Cross, Imani	90	0	0	0	0	90
Carter, Cethan	32	57	0	0	0	89
Moore, Alonzo	7	44	0	0	0	51
Westerkamp, J.	0	32	0	4	0	36

Rutgers

Rushing	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Hicks, Josh	12	68	7	61	0	22	5.1
Martin, Robert	12	43	3	40	1	9	3.3
Laviano, Chris	13	44	41	3	0	13	0.2
Cioffi, Anthony	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Goodwin, Justin	1	0	15	-15	0	0	-15.0
Totals	39	155	66	89	1	22	2.3

Passing	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Laviano, Chris	13-27-2	165	0	40	6
Grant, Janarion	1-1-0	5	1	5	0
Totals	14-28-2	170	1	40	6

Receiving	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Carroo, Leonte	4	62	0	30
Grant, Janarion	4	58	0	40
Scarff, Charles	3	24	0	15
Patton, Andre	2	21	0	13
Laviano, Chris	1	5	1	5
Totals	14	170	1	40

Punting	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Roth, Joey	6	225	37.5	43	0	0
Totals	6	225	37.5	43	0	0

Returns	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Grant, Janarion	1	5	5	2	38	20	0	0	0
Hampton, Saquan	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Wilkins, Kevin	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	10
Hicks, Josh	0	0	0	2	41	21	0	0	0
Cioffi, Anthony	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	51	51
Totals	1	5	5	4	79	21	3	61	51

Field goals	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
Federico, Kyle	4th	03:54	49 yards	Missed

Kickoffs	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Gough, Chris	3	184	61.3	1	0

All-purpose	Run	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Hicks, Josh	61	0	41	0	0	102
Grant, Janarion	0	58	38	5	0	101
Carroo, Leonte	0	62	0	0	0	62
Cioffi, Anthony	0	0	0	0	51	51



Above: Jack Gangwish celebrates a stop against Rutgers. Left: Aaron Williams tries to get through a block on a blitz.

Defensive Statistics

# Nebraska	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
25 Gerry, Nate	7	1	8	-	-	-	-	1-24	2	-	-
52 Banderas, Josh	5	1	6	-	2-1	-	-	-	1	-	-
3 Newby, Marcus	4	1	5	1.0-8	1-8	-	-	-	-	-	-
90 McMullen, Greg	4	0	4	2.0-10	3-11	-	-	-	-	-	-
1B Kalu, Joshua	4	0	4	-	1-4	-	-	-	-	-	1
28 Cockrell, B.	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 Young, Dedrick	3	1	4	-	2-4	-	-	-	-	-	-
14 Rose, Jonathan	3	0	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
88 Dzuris, Ross	3	0	3	1.0-7	1-7	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 Janovich, Andy	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
49 Weber, Chris	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
8A Jones, Chris	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-
7 Collins, Maliek	1	0	1	1.0-10	1-10	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 Reed, Antonio	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
98 Valentine, V.	1	0	1	1.0-6	1-6	-	-	-	-	-	-
68 Gates, Nick	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
41 McNitt, Luke	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
T TEAM	1	0	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
11 Carter, Cethan	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	48	6	54	6.0-41	12-51	1	0-0	2-24	7	0	1

# Rutgers	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
14 Lewis, Kaiwan	9	4	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 Longa, Steve	6	3	9	1.0-14	1-14	1	-	-	-	-	-
50 Gause, Quentin	3	2	5	-	2-12	-	-	-	-	-	1
10 Austin, B.	4	0	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
1 Wharton, Isaiah	4	0	4	-	1-4	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 Hester, Kiy	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
93 Mera, Djwany	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22 Lambert, Q.	1	2	3	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
95 Bateky, Jon	2	0	2	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 Hunt, Andre	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
4 Carroo, Leonte	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 Morris, Trevor	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
88 Patton, Andre	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
59 Davis, Darnell	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
51 Joseph, S.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
31 Cioffi, Anthony	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	1-51	-	-	-
9 Hampton, Saquan	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-
99 Wilkins, Kevin	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	1-10	-	-	-
98 Hogan, Jimmy	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
58 Turay, Kemoko	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
26 Roberts, Deonte	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	42	14	56	1.0-14	6-32	2	0-0	3-61	0	0	8

RUSHING OFFENSE: The Huskers finished with 174 yards rushing on 38 carries, an average of 4.6 yards per carry. Give credit to Nebraska's offensive staff for calling a good game. The end-around to Cethan Carter went for a touchdown, and Nebraska called draws at the right times to get Imani Cross in space against Rutgers' aggressive blitz calls. Nebraska's offensive line seems to be playing with confidence, having pieced together back-to-back solid efforts against Michigan State and Rutgers. — *Michael Bruntz*

B

PASSING OFFENSE: Tommy Armstrong started off great for the Huskers, hitting his first nine passes, but things got a little dodgy closer to halftime. Armstrong overthrew a wide open Lane Hovey, giving Rutgers a short field and costing the Huskers momentum when the game appeared to be over. He threw another pick on a tight end screen pass that was well covered, and threw another ball up for grabs that was intercepted. Armstrong also made some plays — finding Alonzo Moore for a 44-yard touchdown and standing in and giving Cethan Carter a chance to make a catch. Armstrong finished 14-for-21 with three touchdowns and three interceptions on the day. Not great, but it got the job done. — *Michael Bruntz*

B-

RUSHING DEFENSE: Nebraska held up well against Rutgers running game, holding the Scarlet Knights to 2.3 yards per carry and once again gumming up the middle of the line of scrimmage. The Scarlet Knights ran for 155 yards when you take out sack yardage lost, but it was Nebraska's ability to stop Rutgers on first and second down on the ground that allowed the Huskers to turn things loose on third down. — *Michael Bruntz*

A

PASSING DEFENSE: This was Nebraska's finest pass defense game of the season. The Huskers were helped by a limited Leonte Carroo, but give credit to Nebraska's front four who beat up the Scarlet Knights all afternoon. The Huskers were able to get consistent pressure with four defensive linemen, and then got home with blitzes, finishing with six sacks in the game. Nebraska added two interceptions in the contest and made life difficult for Rutgers quarterback Chris Laviano. — *Michael Bruntz*

A

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS: Aside from Leonte Carroo, Nebraska's biggest concern coming into Saturday's game was kick returner Janarion Grant, who came into the game having returned four kicks for touchdowns. Nebraska did a nice job of kicking away from Grant, or bottling him up when he did get a return. Grant had just two returns for 38 yards in the game, and the Huskers definitely won the battle of field position in the game thanks to Sam Foltz, who had four punts downed inside the 20. The Huskers even sniffed out an ill-advised fake punt in the second half. — *Michael Bruntz*

A

Quoting NU defensive end Greg McMullen:



"It's all about the execution and what we have been taught to do instead of doing our own stuff. He wasn't scared and kept his composure. As you can tell, late in the game he was still scrambling around. He's a strong kid and did what he was supposed to. Fortunately we were able to get back there and get him six times."

Game Notes &

BY THE NUMBERS

3 — Nebraska improved to 3-0 all-time against Rutgers, including 2-0 as members of the Big Ten. Nebraska's victory was its first-ever game on the Rutgers campus.

32 — Junior tight end Cethan Carter had a 32-yard touchdown run to open the scoring in the first quarter. The 32-yard rush was the longest by a tight end in the FBS ranks this season. Carter's rushing touchdown is the first carry for a touchdown by a Husker tight end since at least 1971. The last Husker tight end to score a touchdown on a non-passing play was Ben Cotton against Louisiana-Lafayette in 2009, when Cotton recovered a fumble on a Nebraska rushing attempt for a touchdown.

Carter added an 11-yard touchdown catch in the third quarter, marking his second receiving touchdown of the season and the third of his career.

11 — Nebraska recorded a season-high 11 tackles for loss totaling 51 yards, bettering eight tackles for loss against both BYU and Illinois.

6 — Nebraska also recorded a season-high six sacks, topping the Huskers' previous high of four sacks vs. Southern Miss.

Junior defensive end Greg McMullen had a career-high 2.0 sacks, while also totaling a career-high three tackles for loss.

259 — Nebraska allowed 259 yards of total offense to Rutgers, marking a season low for the Blackshirts. The previous opponent season low was 332 yards by South Alabama.

28 — Nebraska scored 31 points in today's game, marking its fifth straight game with at least 28 points. This is the first time Nebraska has scored 28 or more points in five straight conference games since scoring at least 28 in seven straight Big 12 games in 2008.

50 — Nebraska quarterback Tommy Armstrong Jr. became the second Husker to pass for 50 or more touchdown passes in his career. Armstrong connected for the 50th touchdown pass of his career on a 15-yard first-quarter strike to Jordan Westerkamp. He added his 51st (44 yards to Alonzo Moore) and 52nd (11 yards to Cethan Carter) later in the game for his fourth game this season with at least three touchdown passes. Armstrong is within four touchdown passes of Taylor Martinez's school record of 56 career touchdown passes.

61 — Junior receiver Jordan Westerkamp caught three passes to increase his season receptions total to 61. Westerkamp's 61 receptions are the third-most ever by a Nebraska receiver and leave Westerkamp just two catches shy of tying Nate Swift's receiver record (63 in 2008). Westerkamp's 61 receptions are also 14 shy of running back Marlon Lucky's NU school-record 75 receptions in 2007. Westerkamp had 32 receiving yards to increase his season yardage total to 833 receiving yards. He is now fifth on the season receiving yardage list and is 109 yards from Johnny Rodgers' school record of 942



GARRETT EWALD/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Cethan Carter follows the blocks of Alex Lewis (71) and Andy Janovich en route to a 32-yard touchdown run.

receiving yards in 1972. Westerkamp has caught a pass in 24-straight games.

44 – Junior receiver Alonzo Moore had a career-long 44-yard reception for a touchdown in the second quarter. The 44-yard touchdown bettered his previous long receptions by one yard, with Moore recording 43-yard catches against Michigan State in both 2014 and 2015. Moore's touchdown catch was his sixth of the season.

ODDS & ENDS

Nebraska had three rushes that covered 30 or

more yards against Rutgers. Entering the game, Nebraska had only five carries that went for 30 or more yards in the first 10 games of the season.

Sophomore cornerback Chris Jones had his first career interception in the second quarter.

Senior safety Nate Gerry recorded his team-leading fourth interception of the season in the fourth quarter. The interception was the ninth of Gerry's career, including seven in his last 15 Big Ten games. Rutgers offensive lineman Derrick Nelson had to be carted off the field following Gerry's interception, but preliminary reports are

he has feeling in his arms and legs.

Place-kicker Drew Brown connected on a 44-yard field goal in the fourth quarter. He has made eight consecutive field goals, all from beyond 40 yards. Brown has 12 field goals this season of at least 40 yards. Brown's 18 field goals are tied for fifth on the single-season field goal list.

Punter Sam Foltz averaged 40.4 yards on his five punts. Four of Foltz's five punts pinned the Scarlet Knights inside their own 15-yard line.

2MinuteDrill



**CROSS GOING OUT
AS MAIN BACK**
Husker senior earns starting role

GARRETT/EWALD/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Stories by Lanny Holstein

Senior running back Imani Cross brings the wood.

The 6-foot-1, 240 pound back made a name for himself early in his career as the power back, the goal line vulture taking the ball in for the score from in close, but he aspired to be more than that. That's why he cut weight in the offseason following the departure of Ameer Abdullah. The running back job was open, and Cross wanted a shot at the full-time gig, not just the power role.

It took 10 games for him to get it, but when usual starter Terrell Newby couldn't shoulder the load with an ankle injury against Michigan State, the coaches called on Cross. He responded with 18 carries for 98 yards and a score as the main cog of a consistent ground game.

He followed that up with 90 yards on 20 carries at Rutgers.

"Well, the offensive line just did a great job making lanes, and I was just reading their blocks, trying to get downhill as fast as I can and just run hard," he said of his effort against the Spartans.

A humble guy, Cross tried to deflect the credit for his success onto anyone and everyone else, even though it's something he's craved.

"I think the offensive line is the main piece to the puzzle. The way they blocked, I really appreciated it," he said. "They opened up lanes, and I saw them and just tried to hit them. Coach (Danny) Langsdorf was calling great calls, and the receivers were blocking downfield, and Tommy (Armstrong) was making the right checks."

It's funny though, because the those same offensive lineman Cross tried to give most of the credit to really appreciate him. They love the physical, downhill nature with which he runs, even at a lesser weight than in his goal line back days.

"He just runs so tough and puts his shoulder down," left guard Dylan Utter said. "He'll let the guy know when he runs him over to, so that's kind of tough. You know when he's back there and he has the ball in his hands, he is going to move forward. That's what we want."

It's what Langsdorf wants as well, although he's been slow to go to Cross for it.

Newby, a slender 5-foot-8, 200 pound back, has frustrated the staff with his aversion to contact, but it's gone back to him time and again.

It may be Cross' turn now.

"He deserves some carries," Langsdorf said. "He really ran hard, looked good (against MSU). We'd like to keep him fresh, but we really liked what he gave us, so he'll continue to get some carries."

For Cross' part, he's unassuming. From Newby to Devine Ozigbo to Mikale Wilbon to even fullback Andy Janovich, the running game seems to go by the flavor of the week. Cross isn't looking for any handouts.

"My role is just to get better," he said. "That's what we talk about in the offensive room. We don't really talk about individual roles because they change, so I just focus on what I can do."

Time is running out though. As a senior, if Cross wants to get a few more games in as a feature back, if he wants to punish a few more linebackers, time is of the essence.

"You know, I didn't try to think to much," Cross said looking back on his career. "I just tried to work as hard as I could and see what opportunities I could get from it, and I'm thankful for what's happened here."



GARRETT EWALD/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

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Westerkamp Threatening Milestone

Nebraska wide receiver Jordan Westerkamp has a chance to be the first player at Nebraska to go over 1000 yards receiving in a single season.

Johnny Rodgers' 1972 season, where the Heisman Trophy winner put up 941 receiving yards, stands at the top mark in school history, but Westerkamp was already at 801 yards through just 10 games. He has a chance to not only break Rodgers' record but to shatter it.

The junior is thriving in his first year of the Mike Riley and Danny Langsdorf offense.

"A lot of years of coaching, he is one of those unique guys that wants back in and seems to be unaffected by whatever has happened and makes plays," Riley said of Westerkamp. "I think that is as much a mental toughness as it is physical."

There have been bumps and bruises galore for the slot receiver all year long, some of them taking him out of the game for a portion, but he's started every contest and kept himself on the field enough to become to go-to guy in an offense that likes to throw the ball.

Riley said Westerkamp's football intelligence make him a perfect fit for his role in the slot and make him the candidate that he is to hold some records at Nebraska.

"He is totally engaged in the football," the coach said. "He is a really easy guy to coach and he has some unique talent to make some plays. I think he would be probably what we would call, for us, a prototype slot back. The things he can do, we play him some as a wide receiver, but that position holds a lot of interpretation, and he's smart so that is a good thing for him in there."

Kicking Changes

Drew Brown might have earned himself audibling privileges.

The kicker thought about kicking the ball deep late in Nebraska's 39-38 win over Michigan State instead of executing the squib kick that was called from the sideline, but he thought better of it. His squib ended up in the hands of a Spartan return man at the 25 and was brought out to the 42, almost letting MSU steal the game in the final 17 seconds. That made coach Mike Riley think again about how to handle a situation where the opponent comes out in a squib kick defense.

"We should have pounded that ball deep," Riley said. "The way they were bunched up in there, and you have to look at that and that backfired into a deal where they had too good of field position. The guy made a nice play on it, but man that makes you think on how to look on that thing on how to do that a little differently."

Riley isn't ready to swear off squib kicks entirely, but he's willing the change the call based on the look the other team

comes out in. That power would go to the kicker, much like it does to the quarterback in an offensive set or the middle linebacker in a defensive one.

"Usually you call for a certain kind of kick and what you want to do with it, but (audibling) is kind of what I am eluding to," Riley said. "That opportunity to take a look and kind of hit them where they ain't, sort of an idea."

More Tight End Plays Coming?

The tight end was a big part of the Mike Riley and Danny Langsdorf offense at Oregon State, something the many Husker fans were excited to see in Lincoln, but it hasn't panned out as many had hoped.

Count Riley among them. The coach saw his quarterback connect with the tight end 53 times a season ago but only 18 times this year. Cethan Carter, in particular, has been a frustrating case to the coach.

"We are under-using his ability, and it's basically because of continuity," Riley said. "I really think that you build that up through time. It's like with (Jordan) Westerkamp. He is always there. He is always there in practice. You get some feeling about how this is going to work, but as we go forward with that position the better use we make of our tight end the better everybody is."

Carter missed the first two games of the season with a suspension, and while he has played in every game since then, he's done so while dealing with various minor injuries and limited practice time.

The starting tight end is as healthy as he's been all season now, and it's a weapon Riley thinks can makes a defense much easier to figure out.

"If they have to spend a good deal of time on the exterior of your formation with wide receivers, then your tight end is really, really important and the better he is and the more productive that guy is then they have to really worry about what they are doing in the focus of their coverage," Riley said.

"It's dominos. The more guys that contribute, particularly that position, it's harder for the defense to really say OK, we are going to focus on this, and this is what we have to take away."

A Break, Finally

The first off week of the season is here after 11 games, the longest 40-year coaching veteran Mike Riley has ever waited for one.

He plans to give his players some rest before the Nov. 27 Iowa game.

"I haven't really coached a season like this before, where the team plays 11 weeks without a bye week, and I don't remember the last time anything like this has happened," he said. "Certainly, if we could draw it up, we'd put it right there in the middle of the season. But what you have to do when it's given to you, you say, 'This is good and we're going to make it work.'"

Injuries bit Nebraska through the early and middle portions of the season, but health is actually getting better as time moves along.

Practice habits kept the team as healthy as it has been.

"There's no doubt that we've had to put thought into how we practice, particularly when we've been hit hard by injuries," Riley said. "Sometimes you go into practice with one more injury and we've got to change our defensive format. We've been to those extremes a little bit, and so you just have to be careful."



GARRETT EWALD/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Drew Brown warms up against Rutgers.

Hometown Huskers

Brandon Reilly has a touchdown catch to remember

Story by Lanny Holstein • Photo by Ken Juszyk

SATURDAY, NOV. 7 is a day Brandon Reilly won't forget for a long, long time.

The Lincolnite made his splash in front of 90,000+ fans and a national, primetime ESPN2 audience, ruining No. 7 ranked Michigan State's chances at a College Football Playoff berth. His catch in the front corner of the north end zone put Nebraska on top with 17 seconds to go, but just think that it wouldn't have happened without a special tape job on Reilly's injured right toes.

"I had practiced Friday, and (the toes) still hurt pretty bad," he said. "After practice, we tried a different tape job and it felt really good. Right then I knew I would play."

It wasn't perfect. Straight line speed, a Reilly specialty, wasn't quite there for the junior, but he made it work, retaping his toes right before kickoff and then again at halftime.

For the game, Reilly caught three passes for 87 yards, and he also ran it once on an end around for 17 yards, showing a little burst even with the nagging injury. All of that was nice, but the play that's going to stick with Reilly for a while is the unlikely, controversial touchdown at the end.

It was a play Reilly saw coming and jumped on. It was a play that actually wasn't supposed to go to him.

"Tommy (Armstrong) called the play, and I was actually supposed to go to the field because I was playing a different position because Zo (Alonzo Moore) was out," Reilly said. "I told Stan (Morgan) to switch with me because I figured I was going to get the ball on the boundary."

He was right. The Spartans gave him single coverage. Cornerback Jermaine Edmondson shadowed the Lincoln Southeast grad down the field, trying to cut him off from the inside, but Reilly made a move back to the ball and caught it as he fell over the goal line.

Controversy sparked because Reilly went out of bounds before making the catch, and the officiating crew ruled it a force out, making the touchdown legal.

The receiver answered with a wry smile when asked later if he thought it was a legal play.

"I think he kind of just walled me out," Reilly said. "I saw the ball inside, so I slipped inside and got it."

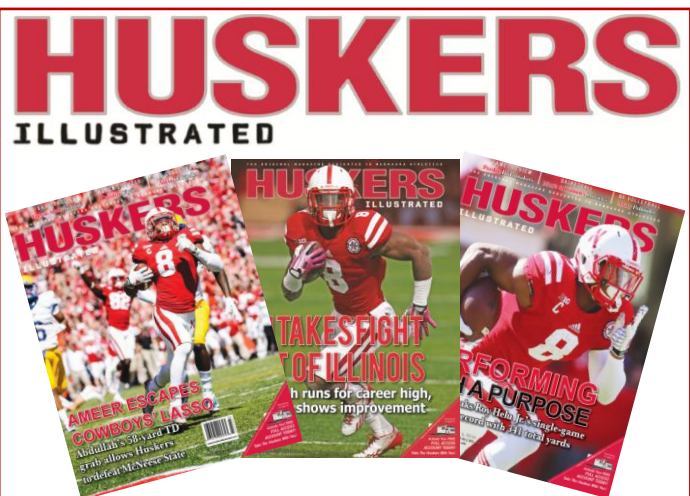
Receivers coach Keith Williams added his two cents with another smile.

"It think what the refs think."

A defensive stop in the final 17 seconds and the game went down as a 39-38 Nebraska win, and an unforgettable day for Reilly.

Here he was, the local boy, making it happen for the biggest show in the state on a night when he almost didn't play, on a play he wasn't supposed to be the target on.

"It didn't seem real for a while, but after it sunk in it was a pretty neat feeling, one I probably won't forget," Reilly said. "Everyone was going wild after that one, man. It was a dance party with 90,000 people, a good time."



Huskers Illustrated is sponsoring an Ameer Abdullah signing event. Action Photos, and *Huskers Illustrated* magazine covers will be available to autograph. You may also bring in your own items.



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2015 SCHEDULE

Sept. 5	Illinois State	W, 31-14
Sept. 12	@ Iowa State	W, 31-17
Sept. 19	Pittsburgh	W, 27-24
Sept. 26	North Texas	W, 62-16
Oct. 3	@ Wisconsin	W, 10-6
Oct. 10	Illinois	W, 29-20
Oct. 17	@ Northwestern	W, 40-10
Oct. 31	Maryland	W, 31-15
Nov. 7	@ Indiana	W, 35-27
Nov. 14	Minnesota	W, 40-35
Nov. 21	Purdue	
Nov. 28	@ Nebraska	

2014 RESULTS (7-6, 4-4)

Northern Iowa	W, 31-23
Ball State	W, 17-13
Iowa State	L, 20-17
@ Pittsburgh	W, 24-20
@ Purdue	W, 24-10
Indiana	W, 45-29
@ Maryland	L, 38-31
Northwestern	W, 48-7
@ Minnesota	L, 51-14
@ Illinois	W, 30-14
Wisconsin	L, 26-24
Nebraska	L, 37-34 (2OT)
Tennessee*	L, 45-28

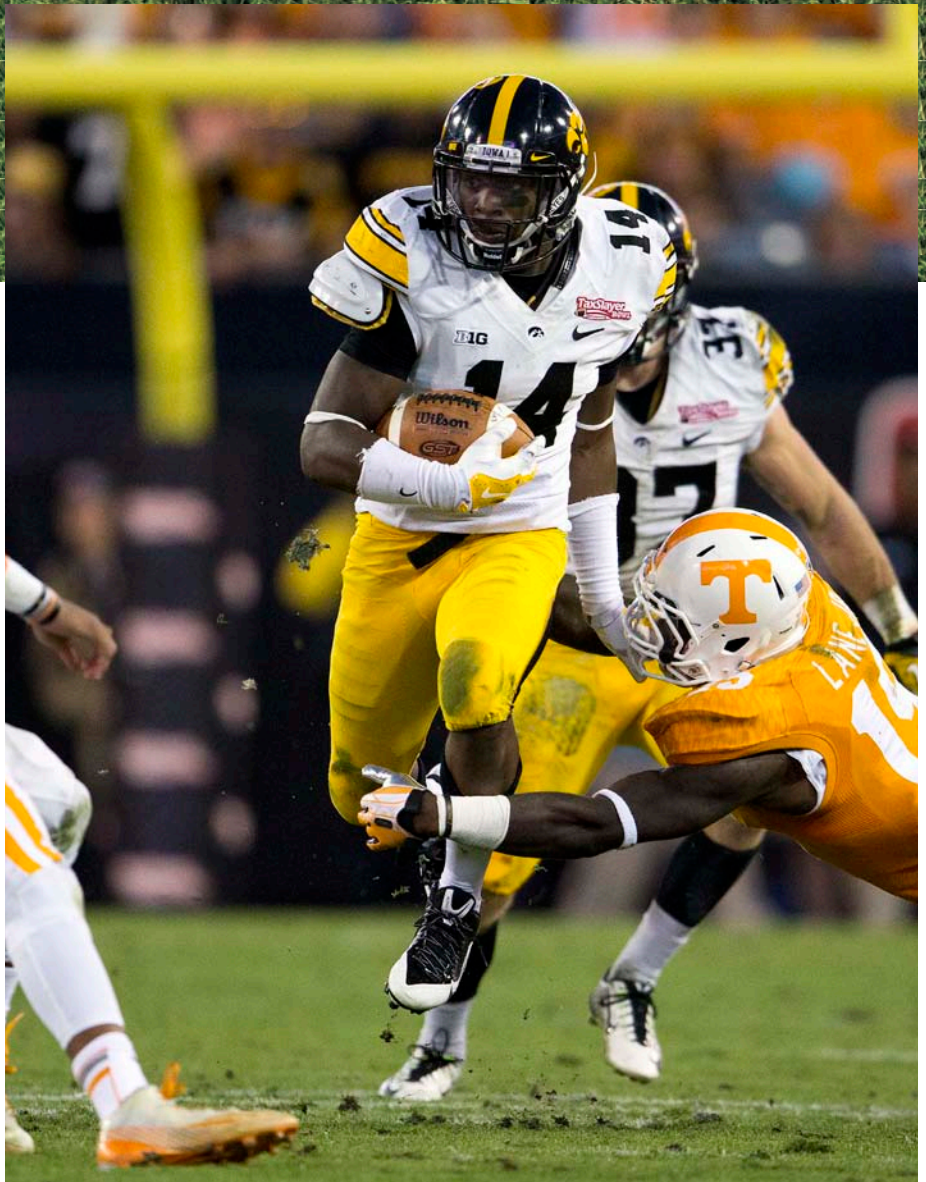
*TaxSlayer Bowl

HEAD COACH

Kirk Ferentz has a wealth of coaching experience having been in both the professional and college ranks.

He is the longest tenured coach in the Big Ten Conference having been at Iowa 17 years and is tied for second among BCS schools.

Ferentz came to Iowa after serving as an offensive line coach from 1993 to 1998 with the Cleveland Browns and then the Baltimore Ravens. At Iowa, he is 125-85 overall with a 74-60 Big Ten mark. His best season came in 2009 when the Hawkeyes finished ranked No. 7 nationally with an 11-2 record that included an Orange Bowl win.



All-American defensive back Desmond King has made eight interceptions for Iowa this season.

Story By Shane G. Gilster • Photos by Brian Ray, Iowa Athletics

Rivalry Game Heats Up

This may turn out to be the most heated game between the Huskers and Hawkeyes since Nebraska has joined the Big Ten. Both teams have plenty to play for and need this win badly.

Iowa has clinched the West Division and will play in the Big Ten Championship game. They are also undefeated and trying to make to the College Football Playoff.

Nebraska on the other hand has a 5-6 record and needs to get one more win to secure a definite bowl game.

NU has had the benefit of a bye week to prepare for this game and is playing at home. They will also be excited to play against another Iowa top 10 team after knocking off No. 6 Michigan earlier this month.

Even though Iowa is undefeated and highly-ranked, they haven't had a difficult schedule. Nebraska on the other hand has played in a lot of close games and is battle tested a little more.

Prediction

If the Huskers can run the ball effectively like they did against the Spartans, then they should get another win against a top 10 team to close out the season. Expect NU to play their most complete game of the season and win in surprising fashion.

Nebraska 31, Iowa 21

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Quarterback CJ Beathard has not lost a game as a starter for Iowa.

A look back - Huskers Clip Hawkeyes

Nebraska 42, Iowa 7

Sept. 11, 1982 in Lincoln

Nebraska had payback on its mind after losing to the Hawkeyes in Iowa City the year before.

The Huskers were ranked No. 3 and Iowa was the defending Big Ten champion, so it looked like it would be a competitive game for the second-straight year. But that wasn't the case.

NU took charge in the first quarter, scoring two touchdowns, each in the first and second quarters to take a 28-0 lead at halftime. Iowa could do nothing on offense in the first half, netting only 1 yard of total offense.

For the game, Nebraska totaled 503 yards of total offense and were led by I-back Mike Rozier who had 127 yards rushing and wingback Irving Fryar who also had 127 yards but it was by reception.

Offensive Preview

Quarterback C.J. Beathard has done well as the Hawkeye starter. He isn't flashy but doesn't hurt his team with mistakes. His favorite target in the passing game is Matt VandeBerg.

Iowa has always had a good rushing attack

and this year is no exception. Senior Jordan Canzeri was having a great year, which included a career-best 256 yards rushing against Illinois, but got injured causing him to miss some games. His health is still questionable but Iowa has gotten production from Akrum Wadley and LeShun Daniels.

Defensive Preview

Iowa has an All-American defensive back holding down the secondary. Junior cornerback Desmond King is one of the leaders in the nation with eight interceptions.

King's play combined with the rest of the defensive output, it's no wonder that the Hawkeyes have a top 10 national scoring defense. They are also highly-ranked in rushing and pass efficiency defense.

Special Teams Preview

King also handles the punt and kickoff returns for the Hawkeyes, so teams need to be wary when kicking to him.

Place kicker Marshall Koehn has been solid on field goals this year, and made a 57-yarder that won the game against Pittsburgh earlier this year. It was the second longest field goal in Iowa history.

Last game

Iowa 40, Minnesota 35

Played Nov. 14 at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City, Iowa.

The No. 5 Hawkeyes continue to find ways to win and improved to 10-0 for the first time in school history with their five-point victory over Minnesota in the battle for the Floyd of Rosedale trophy.

LeShun Daniels scored on 51-yard touchdown run with 2:01 left in the game to give the Hawkeyes a 40-28 lead. It was the fourth drive of more than 75 yards that Iowa made against the Golden Gophers.

"It was one of those games where both offenses operated at a high level. Both quarterbacks had great games," Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz said. "I guess we can answer the question as to whether LeShun is totally healthy. He had a great game."

Daniels finished with 195 yards.

The Golden Gophers punched holes in Iowa's defense all game and got into the endzone one more time with 1:16 to make Iowa's first sellout crowd of the season a little nervous before the Hawks got the onside kick.

Fast Facts

Location: Iowa City, Iowa

Enrollment: 31,387

First Year of Football: 1889

National Championships: 1 (1958)

Big Ten Conference Titles: 11

Stadium Name: Kinnick Stadium

Stadium Capacity: 70,585

Nickname: Hawkeyes

Colors: Gold and Black

Mascot: Herky the Hawk

2014 Overall Record: 7-6

2014 Big Ten Record: 4-4

Conference: Big Ten

Starters Returning: (14) – Offense (5), Defense (7), Specialists (2)

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No	Name	Pos	Yr	Ht	Wt	Hometown (Prev School)	No	Name	Pos	Yr	Ht	Wt	Hometown (Prev School)
1	Marshall Koehn	6-0/200	PK	SR	Solon, Iowa/Solon		46	George Kittle	6-4/235	TE	JR		Norman, Okla./Norman
2	Brandon Bishop	5-9/170	WR	RS FR	Sugar Grove, Illinois/Kaneland		47	Lane Akre	6-0/220	FB	FR		Geneseo, Ill./Geneseo
2	Mick Ellis	5-10/180	K	SO	Allen, Texas/Lovejoy		48	Jack Hockaday	6-1/215	LB	FR		Forsyth, Ill./Maroa-Forsyth
3	Jay Scheel	6-1/195	WR	RS FR	Mount Auburn, Iowa/Union		49	Melvin Spears	6-2/268	DE	SR		Allen, Texas/Allen
4	Tevaun Smith	6-2/205	WR	SR	Toronto, Ontario/Kent School, Conn.		50	Jacob Sobotka	6-3/225	LB	RS FR		Clearfield, Iowa/Mount Ayr High School
5	Ronald Nash	6-2/210	WR	SO	Sioux City, Iowa/East/Iowa Western C.C.		50	Jackson Subbert	6-3/205	LS	SO		Williamsburg, Iowa/Williamsburg
5	Omar Truitt	5-11/185	DB	RS FR	Fort Washington, Md./St. Johns College HS		51	Drake Dunker	6-2/225	LB	FR		St. Louis, Mo./Lafayette
6	Emmanuel Ogwo	6-0/170	WR	FR	Mesquite, Texas/Horn		52	Boone Myers	6-5/300	OL	SO		Webster City, Iowa/Webster City
7	Sean Draper	6-0/190	DB	SR	Cleveland, Ohio/Glenville		52	Brady Ross	6-1/220	LB	FR		Humboldt, Iowa/Humboldt
7	Colten Rastetter	6-2/205	P	FR	Guttenberg, Iowa/Clayton Ridge		53	Garret Jansen	6-2/255	DL	FR		Pella, Iowa/Pella
8	Isaiah Kramme	6-3/205	DB	FR	Ankeny, Iowa/Ankeny Centennial		54	Steve Ferentz	6-2/278	OL	JR		Iowa City, Iowa/Iowa City
8	Tyler Wiegers	6-4/222	QB	RS FR	Lake Orion, Mich./Detroit Country Day		56	Faith Ekakitie	6-3/290	DL	JR		Brampton, Ontario/Lake Forest, Ill. Academy
9	Jerminic Smith	6-1/180	WR	FR	Garland, Texas/South Garland		57	Jake Newborg	6-3/280	OL	FR		Inwood, Iowa/West Lyon
10	Jonathan Parker	5-8/185	WR	SO	St. Louis, Mo./Christian Brothers		58	Eric Simmons	6-2/295	OL	SR		Madrid, Iowa/Madrid/Iowa Western Community College
11	Ryan Boyle	6-2/215	QB	FR	West Des Moines, Iowa/Dowling Catholic		59	Ross Reynolds	6-4/300	OL	RS FR		Waukee, Iowa/Waukee
11	Michael Ojemudia	6-2/190	DB	FR	Farmington Hills, Mich./Harrison		60	Jacob Giese	6-3/270	DL	FR		West Branch, Iowa/West Branch
12	Anthony Gair	6-2/210	DB	JR	Plano, Texas/Prestonwood Christian		61	Kyle Terlouw	6-4/288	DL	JR		Sully, Iowa/Lynnville-Sully/Iowa Central CC
13	Greg Mabin	6-2/200	DB	JR	Fort Lauderdale, Fla./Calvary Christian Academy		63	Austin Blythe	6-3/290	OL	SR		Williamsburg, Iowa/Williamsburg
14	Connor Keane	6-1/195	WR	SO	St. Paul, Minn./Cretin-Derham Hall		64	Cole Croston	6-5/295	OL	JR		Sergeant Bluff, Iowa/Sergeant Bluff-Luton
14	Desmond King	5-11/200	DB	JR	Detroit, Mich./East English Village		65	Jordan Walsh	6-4/290	OL	SR		Glendale Heights, Ill./Glenbard West
15	Joshua Jackson	6-1/185	WR	RS FR	Corinth, Texas/Lake Dallas		66	Levi Paulsen	6-5/290	OL	FR		Moville, Iowa/Woodbury Central
16	C.J. Beathard	6-2/209	QB	JR	Franklin, Tenn./Battle Ground Academy		67	Jaleel Johnson	6-4/310	DL	JR		Lombard, Ill./Montini Catholic
16	Dillon Kidd	6-2/215	P	SR	Deerfield Beach, Fla./North Broward Prep/El Camino CC		68	Landon Paulsen	6-5/290	OL	FR		Moville, Iowa/Woodbury Central
17	Jacob Hillyer	6-4/212	WR	SR	Somerset, Texas/Somerset		69	Keegan Render	6-4/305	OL	RS FR		Indianola, Iowa/Indianola
17	Ryan Schmidt	6-5/220	QB	FR	Linn-Mar, Iowa/Linn-Mar		70	Lucas LeGrand	6-5/280	OL	RS FR		Dubuque, Iowa/Senior
18	Drew Cook	6-5/220	QB	FR	Iowa City/Regina		71	Brett Waechter	6-5/275	OL	FR		Hartley, Iowa/Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn
19	Miles Taylor	6-0/195	DB	SO	Silver Spring, Md./Gonzaga College HS		72	Brant Gressel	6-2/280	DL	SO		Centerville, Ohio/Centerville
20	Andrew Stone	5-11/175	WR	SR	Cedar Falls, Iowa/Cedar Falls/Iowa Western CC		73	Ryan Ward	6-5/290	OL	JR		Homer Glen, Ill./Providence Catholic
21	Justin Jinning	6-2/210	LB	FR	The Colony, Texas/The Colony		74	Mitch Keppey	6-5/300	OL	JR		Port Byron, Ill./Riverdale
22	Angelo Garbutt	6-2/210	LB	FR	Carrollton, Texas/Hebron		75	Ike Boettger	6-6/300	OL	SO		Cedar Falls, Iowa/Cedar Falls
22	John Milani	6-1/185	DB	FR	Iowa City/West		76	Dalton Ferguson	6-4/307	OL	RS FR		Solon, Iowa/Solon
23	Eric Graham	5-9/195	RB	FR	Prattville, Ala./Autauga Academy		77	Daniel Gaffey	6-2/260	DL	SO		Iowa City, Iowa/Regina
25	Akrum Wadley	5-11/185	RB	SO	Newark, N.J./Weequahic		78	James Daniels	6-4/285	OL	FR		Warren, OH/Harding
26	Marcel Joly	5-11/185	RB	RS FR	Hyattsville, Md./Forestville Military Academy		79	Sean Welsh	6-3/288	OL	SO		Springboro, Ohio/Springboro
26	Kevin Ward	6-1/205	DB	SO	Homer Glen, Ill./Providence Catholic		80	Henry Krieger Coble	6-4/250	TE	SR		Mount Pleasant, Iowa/Mount Pleasant
27	Jordan Lomax	5-10/205	DB	SR	Upper Marlboro, Md./DeMatha Catholic		81	Jon Wisnieski	6-5/247	TE	RS FR		West Des Moines, Iowa/Dowling Catholic
28	Maurice Fleming	6-0/205	DB	JR	Chicago, Ill./Curie Metropolitan		82	Adrian Falconer	6-1/180	WR	FR		Leesburg, Fla./Leesburg
29	LeShun Daniels, Jr.	6-0/225	RB	JR	Warren, Ohio/Harding		83	Riley McCarron	5-9/186	WR	JR		Dubuque, Iowa/Wahlert
29	Nick Wilson	6-2/206	LB	FR	Granger, Iowa/Dowling Catholic		84	Andre Harris	6-0/185	WR	SO		Kirkwood, Mo./Kirkwood
30	Jake Gervase	6-2/200	DB	RS FR	Davenport, Iowa/Assumption		85	Nate Vejvoda	6-5/215	TE	FR		Homer Glen, Ill./Providence Catholic
30	Steve Manders	6-1/235	LB	SO	Crofton, Md./Archbishop Spalding/Fork Union Military Academy		86	Peter Pekar	6-4/245	TE	SO		Greendale, Wis./Greendale
31	Aaron Mends	6-0/212	FB	RS FR	Kansas City, Mo./Winnetonka		87	Jake Duzey	6-4/248	TE	SR		Troy, Mich./Athens
32	Derrick Mitchell, Jr.	6-1/212	RB	SO	St. Louis, Mo./Vashon		88	Jake Hulett	6-3/265	DL	SO		Springville, Iowa/Springville
33	Jordan Canzeri	5-9/192	RB	SR	Troy, N.Y./Troy		89	Matt VandeBerg	6-1/185	WR	JR		Brandon, S.D./Brandon Valley
34	Nate Meier	6-2/252	DE	SR	Tabor, Iowa/Fremont-Mills		90	Sam Brincks	6-5/260	DE	RS FR		Carroll, Iowa/Kuemper
36	Cole Fisher	6-2/236	OLB	SR	Omaha, Neb./Millard North		91	Miguel Recinos	6-1/180	K	RS FR		Mason City, Iowa/Mason City
37	Brandon Snyder	6-1/210	DB	RS FR	Larchwood, Iowa/West Lyon		91	Brady Reiff	6-3/225	DL	FR		Parkston, S.D./Parkston
38	Adam Cox	5-11/234	FB	SR	Chana, Ill./Stillman Valley		92	Jameer Outsey	6-3/235	TE	RS FR		Somerset, N.J./Franklin
39	Travis Perry	6-3/234	LB	SR	Urbandale, Iowa/Urbandale		93	Terrence Harris	6-3/252	DE	RS FR		Englewood, N.J./Paramus Catholic
40	Parker Hesse	6-3/240	LB	RS FR	Waukon, Iowa/Waukon		94	Michael Slater	6-2/265	DE	FR		St. Louis, Mo./Parkway Central
41	Bo Bower	6-1/228	LB	SO	West Branch, Iowa/West Branch		95	Drew Ott	6-4/272	DL	SR		Trumbull, Neb./Giltner
41	Austin Kelly	5-11/245	FB	RS FR	Hickory Hills, Ill./Stagg		96	Matt Nelson	6-8/270	DE	RS FR		Cedar Rapids, Iowa/Xavier
42	Macon Plewa	6-2/244	FB	SR	Franklin, Wis./Franklin		97	Darian Cooper	6-2/282	DL	SR		Elkridge, Md./DeMatha Catholic
43	Josey Jewell	6-2/230	OLB	SO	Decorah, Iowa/Decorah		97	Tyler Kluver	6-0/220	LS	SO		Marshalltown, Iowa/Marshalltown
44	Ben Niemann	6-3/225	LB	SO	Sycamore, Ill./Sycamore		98	Anthony Nelson	6-7/220	DE	FR		Urbandale, Iowa/Waukee
45	Eric Grimm	6-2/200	LB	RS FR	Damascus, Maryland/Our Lady of Good Counsel		98	Nate Wieting	6-4/225	TE	FR		Rockford, Ill./Rockford Lutheran
45	Drake Kilick	6-1/228	IR	SO	Muscataine, Iowa/Muscataine		99	Nathan Razata	6-7/284	DL	SO		Howells, Neb./Howells-Nodda

BIGTEN NOTEBOOK

East Showdown Set

Ohio State, Michigan State to clash on Saturday, Michigan still holding out hope for division title

| DOUG GRIFFITHS

EVER SINCE THE college football season started, Big Ten fans have been eyeing the Nov. 21 showdown in Columbus between defending national champion Ohio State and Michigan State, who many believe have the best chance of any conference team to knock off the Scarlet and Gray.

Well, now the waiting is over.

The Buckeye-Spartan clash in the Horseshoe is upon us and for all practical purposes the winner of the game will represent the East Division in the Big Ten Championship game next month in Indianapolis. The game has national title implications for Ohio State.

Ohio State hasn't lost in over a year and has a sparkling 10-0 overall record, including a perfect 6-0 Big Ten mark.

Only the Big Two from the state of Michigan - Michigan State and Michigan - stand in the Buckeyes way of an undefeated regular season.

And Ohio State has really been taking care of business since winning by a touchdown at Indiana. Since that victory, Urban Meyer's squad has reeled off five straight wins, winning those games by an average of 38.4-12.4.

The 9-1 Spartans have just the one-point loss at Nebraska as the only blip on their radar.

At No. 13 in the College Football Playoff Rankings, Michigan State's hopes to be included in the four-team playoff seem to be faint at best.

Still, a win over the reigning champs would go a long way toward making the 2015 a special one, especially considering all the injuries Mark Dantonio's club has had to endure.

Following *Huskers Illustrated* takes a look at football happenings around the Big Ten:

EAST DIVISION

INDIANA

As has been the case so often this season, IU was competitive in a big game, but once again found a way to lose, this time against nationally-ranked Michigan in double overtime.

On fourth-and-goal from the two-yard line, IU's Mitchell Paige bobbled a pass near the goal line and it fell incomplete to end the game.

The decision to throw the ball so close to the goal line was perplexing when you consider how effective the Hoosiers were running the ball against one of the nation's best run defenses.

Running back Jordan Howard was sensational, running the ball 35 times for 238 yards and two scores. He also caught a seven-yard TD pass and became the 11th player in school history to top the 1,000-yard mark in a season.

The Hoosiers, who haven't beaten Michigan since 1987, remain winless in the Big Ten and now must win at Maryland and at Purdue to become bowl eligible.

MARYLAND

The Terrapins really had no chance of beating the Spartans because they turned the ball over five times.

"We win and lose as a team," Maryland interim head coach Mike Locksley said. "As I've told the defense, they've really given us opportunities to be in games against some really, really good teams the last few weeks. They'll keep doing that for the rest of the season and now I've got to get the offense going and the kicking game going to hold up to their end of the bargain."

Locksley's bunch has thrown the most interceptions (28) in Division I.

MICHIGAN

The Wolverines had their second heart-stopping game in the last four weeks and

EAST DIVISION

2015 Standings

Team	Overall	Conference
Ohio State	10-0	6-0
Michigan State	9-1	5-1
Michigan	8-2	5-1
Penn State	7-3	4-2
Rutgers	3-7	1-6
Indiana	4-6	0-6
Maryland	2-8	0-6

WEST DIVISION

Team	Overall	Conference
Iowa	10-0	6-0
Wisconsin	8-2	5-1
Northwestern	8-2	4-2
Nebraska	5-6	3-4
Illinois	5-5	2-4
Minnesota	4-6	1-5
Purdue	2-8	1-5

Nov. 14 Results

Nebraska 31, Rutgers 14
Northwestern 21, Purdue 14
Michigan 48, Indiana 41 2OT
Michigan State 24, Maryland 7
Ohio State 28, Illinois 3
Iowa 40, Minnesota 35

Nov. 21 Games

11 a.m. - Rutgers at Army
11 a.m. - Purdue at Iowa
11 a.m. - Illinois at Minnesota
11 a.m. - Indiana at Maryland
11 a.m. - Michigan at Penn State
2:30 p.m. Michigan State at Ohio State
2:30 p.m. Northwestern at Wisconsin

Nov. 27 Games

Iowa at Nebraska

Nov. 28 Games

Indiana at Purdue TBD
Maryland at Rutgers TBD
Wisconsin at Minnesota TBD
Northwestern vs. Illinois
Penn State at Michigan State
Ohio State at Michigan

All times CT

this time the Maize and Blue came out on top.

Michigan survived at Indiana thanks to quarterback Jake Rudock's career day.

Rudock threw six touchdown passes, one of which came with two seconds left in regulation and two others came on back-to-back plays in overtime.

"If Jake doesn't play the way he does, we don't have a chance," Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh said. "All those attributes - talk about his accuracy, talk about his arm strength, talk about his durability, his toughness, he's intelligent - but I still go back to that one, he is just unflappable. It doesn't matter what the situation is."

Rudock finished 33-of-46 with 440 yards passing. His six touchdown passes broke the previous school record of four.

Receiver Jehu Chesson finished with a career-best 10 catches for 207 yards and four scores, tying a school single-game TD receptions record set in 1992.

MICHIGAN STATE

The Spartans got quite a scare against Maryland.

No, the Terrapins didn't come close to upsetting Michigan State. However, the Spartans' starting quarterback Connor Cook left the game at halftime with a shoulder problem.

Neither he nor his head coach was overly concerned after the victory about his availability for the Ohio State game.

"Connor will be all right," Dantonio said. "I think he could have gone, but he felt like if he threw it hard, it would set him back."

"I just landed on it funny," Cook said. "I probably could have gone. But Coach D just wanted to keep me on the sideline for precautionary purposes."

OHIO STATE

Quarterback J.T. Barrett returned from his one-game suspension and he didn't have to do much because of how productive Ezekiel Elliott was.

Elliott ran for 181 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Barrett chipped in 150 yards passing and 74 yards rushing.

"Obviously he's a workhorse, he gets



Medical personnel attend to Tommy Armstrong Jr. after he was shaken up on a touchdown pass to Cethan Carter against Rutgers.

stronger as the game goes on," said Meyer referring to Elliott's 27-carry performance.

"Boy, Zeke is something else, ain't he?" said Barrett, suspended for last week's game after being cited for driving while impaired.

PENN STATE

There has been some impressive football Penn State has played this season as well as some inconsistency.

Nonetheless, the Nittany Lions are 7-3 this season and got to enjoy a bye Nov. 14.

A big reason for their success is the play of quarterback Christian Hackenberg.

Since the loss to Temple, he's thrown just two interceptions in 250 pass attempts (compared to 13 touchdown passes) and averaged 209 yards passing.

Another big plus has been the running of Saquon Barkley. The freshman sensation averages 6.3 yards per carry and 13.0 yards per reception, and he's scored eight times in eight games.

RUTGERS

The Scarlet Knights head coach Kyle Flood's future is in jeopardy as his team solidified a losing record after losing to Nebraska. During the game, when Flood's

picture appeared on the scoreboard, Rutgers fans booed.

Rutgers is now 3-7 after losing its fourth straight game.

Quarterback Chris Laviano was sacked six times. He threw for 165 yards, completing 13-of-27 passes.

"I think everyone in the program is frustrated," Flood said. "We want to perform better. We've got real competitors in that locker room. We've got high expectations for ourselves. We're not pleased with how we played tonight and we'll go back to work tomorrow to fix it."

WEST DIVISION ILLINOIS

The Illini offense really struggled against Ohio State's mighty defense.

Illinois rushed for only 20 yards and quarterback Wes Lunt threw for 241 yards, completing 23-of-47 passes.

The Illini did have some scoring chances, but failed to execute. A 50-yard field goal hit the upright and a botched hold cost them another chance for a field goal.

The game was Illinois' home finale. Now, the Illini will have to beat either Minnesota or Northwestern to get win No. 6.

IOWA

All the Hawkeyes keep doing is winning.

For the first time in school history, Iowa is 10-0 thanks to a home victory over Minnesota, and the Hawkeyes are getting closer to a date in the Big Ten Championship Game as champions of the West Division.

"I don't know how good we are, but we play hard," said Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz, who is not only in the hunt for a Big Ten title, but in the thick of things in the four-team College Football Playoff as the Hawkeyes are ranked fifth.

Against Minnesota, Iowa running back LeShun Daniels, Jr. was stellar. He rushed for 195 yards and three touchdowns.

By beating the Gophers, Iowa regained possession of the 98-pound bronze pig named the "Floyd of Rosedale."



Nebraska's cheer squad flies the Husker flags proudly during the Rutgers game in Piscataway, N.J.

MINNESOTA

The Golden Gophers continued to play inspired ball since coach Jerry Kill's sudden resignation.

Minnesota played a hard-fought game at Iowa only to lose a close one.

As a result, Tracy Claeys was rewarded by the university just days prior to the Iowa game when it announced it had removed his interim tag and signed him to a three-year contract.

Claeys saw quarterback Mitch Leidner have a good game against Iowa, completing 19-of-27 passes for 259 yards and a touchdown.

Minnesota had a pair of receivers – KJ Maye and Brandon Lingen – with more than 100 yards. Maye had 106 yards on seven catches. Lingen had half a dozen receptions for 105 yards and a score.

NORTHWESTERN

The Wildcats survived Purdue's upset bid thanks to Justin Jackson's late touchdown.

Jackson ran for 116 yards, and Warren Long ran for two more TDs.

As a result, Northwestern still has a shot a school record for wins and a spot in a prestigious bowl.

The Wildcats were facing a third-

and-14 against the Boilermakers when quarterback Clayton Thorson broke off back-to-back 16-yard runs to give the hosts the ball on the 5.

Northwestern has now won three straight games.

"You go into the locker room after games like that - you're frustrated, you're not very pleased, but you know that you've got a good team," Wildcat head coach Pat Fitzgerald said. "You just got to find a way as a coach to get it out of the guys."

PURDUE

Darrell Hazell doesn't have anything to worry about this holiday season, at least when it comes to his job security.

That's because athletic director Morgan Burke came out in support of the Purdue head coach a few days before the Boilermakers lost a close game at Northwestern.

Burke made the announcement on BTN Live. His vote of confidence came despite Hazell having a 6-28 guiding the Purdue program.

The Boilermakers have one Big Ten victory - over Nebraska - and have lost four games by 10 points or less, but were blown out in losses to Virginia Tech, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois.

Hazell said he was never worried about whether or not he would return for a fourth season in West Lafayette.

"I was never concerned about that," he said.

"It was a strong statement that Morgan made. His support has always been there."

Hazell is guiding a program that hasn't beaten a ranked team since 2011.

WISCONSIN

The Badgers are getting hot at just the right time.

Wisconsin has won five straight games and got to fully enjoy the winning streak with a bye week, which couldn't have come at a better time for the ailing Badgers.

The hope is that the time off will allow several injured players to return Nov. 21.

Head coach Paul Chryst hopes to get starting tight end Austin Traylor back. Traylor, who is one of the team's top receiving threats, is returning from a broken arm.

Kicker Andrew Endicott (leg) is close to coming back.

"Some of us being productive is getting some guys healthier," said Chryst, whose team has returned to the AP Top 25.

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Troy Watchorn

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~ Troy Watchorn

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PHOTOS BY DARREN IVY AND GARRETT EWALD



From left: Rick and Teresa Cone from Hickory, North Carolina and Kylie Cone from Vicksburg, Missouri pose for a photo before the game.



Tyler Goeschel and Audrey Stone of Vermont hold up their Jordan Westerkamp sign before the game.



Husker fans Ted Durant, Phil Paciulli, Mike Paciulli, Michele Paciulli, Andrew Lamberson and Heather Price enjoy some homemade soups, before the Rutgers game on Saturday.



NU fans James and Madeleine Skinner came from New Freedom, Pennsylvania for the game.



Sampling the local fat sandwiches were Ron Bomberger, left, from North Carolina and Albert Apicella.



Pam and Jim Rose of Geneva and daughter Cassie Ivy of Hickman pose with the owner of the Olde Queens Tavern before the game.



A Stroll Down Rasmussen Road With **KAREN JENNINGS**

Women's Basketball Player 1989-93

Column by Butch Rasmussen • Photo Courtesy of NU Media Relations

She grew up an Iowa farm girl but the state of Nebraska is so heavily engrained in her athletic maturity that the Cornhusker state will always be her foundation for sustained success in sport and in business.

Karen Jennings is one of the best to ever wear the scarlet and cream of the women's basketball program at the University of Nebraska (1990-93). Named the nation's outstanding player in 1993, placed on the Kodak All-America Team, honored as the Big Eight Female Athlete of the Year, named a three time Academic All-America and named by basketball guru Dick Vitale as one of the top 5 high school players in the country, collectively It doesn't get much better than that.

Jennings grew up in Persia Iowa, population 319, where she was a four year starter in basketball and volleyball and participated in track and field in the discus and shot put.

She was named first team Super State her junior and senior years in basketball and her senior year in volleyball at Tri Center High School and won silver twice at the state track meet in the discus.

Jennings suffered a whirlwind courtship from 200 schools recruiting her to play college volleyball and basketball and her choices came down to Indian, Iowa and Nebraska.

Of course she chose Nebraska "They told me I'd have a good opportunity to start and play 20 minutes each game. "I felt at home at Nebraska and felt God was leading me there," she said. She became a four year starter for the Huskers and in her freshman



year she was named Newcomer of the Year in the Big Eight Conference and led the Huskers in scoring

Her junior year was her best for numbers when she put up 810 points and averaged better than 25 points per game. Add in 319 rebounds and she had a season average double double of 25 points and 10 rebounds per game. She was twice chosen Player of the Year in the Big Eight Conference her junior and senior year.

Jennings' biggest game came when she scored 48 points against Kansas State in January 1992 but the game she remembers most was a game against the Oklahoma Sooners in Norman:

"We unpacked our travel bags and I realized I had forgotten my shoes," she said. "Coach Beck told one of her assistants to take

me to the mall to get a pair of shoes. I picked out a pair of pink and black shoes and went back to the arena and scored 37 points so I wore those shoes the rest of the season."

Jennings was named captain of the Nebraska All-Century team announced in February 2000 and according to information released by the university closed the greatest career in the history of women's basketball at that time as the only player to score more than 2000 points and record over 1000 rebounds.

"I was usually just playing my game quietly scoring the junk points," she said. "I had a nice touch on the ball and a quick first step that made a difference. I enjoyed the game and practiced a lot of hours and had the fire in me to always get better."

The welcome mat is always

out at the Pinnacle Bank Arena and on campus. "That's what's so wonderful about Nebraska. Once a Husker, you're always a Husker. If I need something, they're always there," she said. "The older you get the more you appreciate that. Living in Nebraska is wonderful. We're just so blessed," she said.

Jennings said the Life Skills program at Nebraska encourages athletes to become involved in community outreach and she promoted the first School is Cool Jam. She said it teaches athletes that philanthropy is important and inspires athletes to be the best they can be while giving to others.

"Nebraska is a one in a million school and it will be first choice for the school I want my daughter to attend," she said.

After her playing days at Nebraska Jennings graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Physiology in 1993 and then obtained a Masters degree in Physical Therapy in 1998.

After practicing as a Physical Therapist for a couple years she chose to give real estate a try and the rest is history.

Today, 20 years later she's a very successful real estate agent with CBS Home Real Estate Company in Omaha. Karen is the number one sales person in the company, married to Husband Ron Peoples, and has a daughter Claire, 10 years old.

And the honors continue for Karen.

In September she was inducted into the Inaugural Class of the Nebraska Athletics Hall of Fame representing Husker Women's Basketball.



10 questions

with senior wrestler **Jake Sueflohn**

Story by Lanny Holstein • Photo by Jimmy Rash, Head Shot Courtesy of NU Media Relations

Q: How has your Nebraska career compared to what you thought it would be?

A: "It's been everything I thought it would be and everything I wanted it to be. I guess, in terms of how I finished the season out, it hasn't been what I wanted it to be at this point, but in terms of the season as a whole and my career here as a Husker, it's been everything I wanted it to be."

Q: Is there anything you have yet to accomplish you are really targeting?

A: "I've been Big Ten runner up the last two years I competed, so breaking through that and winning the Big Ten is something that I'd like to do along with being on the podium at nationals. I've failed to do that the last couple years."

Q: How do you feel coming off the torn ACL and how hard was that to deal with last year?

A: "I'm 100 percent all healed up and ready to go, you know? The actual injury itself wasn't too bad, but the rehab was really tough. I'd say the hardest part about it was just sitting out and watching my teammates compete the whole time."

Q: Was it at least a positive that you could focus on classes during the injury or was the rehab a fulltime deal itself?

A: "There was a lot of rehab. I got my range of motion back within 10 days, so after that it was a lot of rehab to build my strength back up. I mean, I really didn't get a chance to focus on academics per se because I was just so focused on getting back, getting healthy. I was pretty much a fulltime athlete as well."

Q: What are your plans after Nebraska?

A: "I'd like to coach wrestling. The more I think about it, I

love the sport too much to walk away from it, so I want to stay involved and coach after I'm done competing."

Q: So you don't have any plans to use your journalism major?

A: "Yeah, that's what I'm doing, but I don't think it's for me. I have to finish it up though because I'm so far in that if I switched to something else I'd be ineligible. I just have to finish it up, and coach after that."

Q: I'm sure you've learned a lot about wrestling and coaching it from coach Manning. Do you have any good stories involving him?

A: "I have a lot of stuff, but nothing I'd probably share though. I really have a lot of stuff I've picked up from Manning, but I probably won't share any stories."

Q: As a Wisconsin native, what do you think of the Nebraska-Wisconsin rivalry that's kind of cropped up while you've been here?

A: "I came here before we went to the Big Ten. I think it was a month of the Big 12, so I like to say I came here before we were rivals with them. No, my family will cheer for the Huskers in wrestling, but just about every other sport they cheer for the Badgers."

Q: Is the cheese-loving Wisconsin stereotype accurate in your case?

A: "Oh, I love cheese. I'm the stereotypical Wisconsin person when it comes to loving cheese."

Q: Do you have a favorite type of cheese or way to eat it?

A: "I like a, you know, you buy a fresh chunk or wheel of mozzarella cheese and you shred it up, and it's amazing. Yeah, I just eat it plain."

Wrestling 2015-16 Schedule

Journeyman/Asics Duals

Nov. 15	Lock Haven	Troy, N.Y.	W, 41-0
Nov. 15	Oregon State	Troy, N.Y.	10:15 a.m.
Nov. 15	Lehigh	Troy, N.Y.	12:15 p.m.
Nov. 21	Wyoming	Devaney Center	7 p.m.

Grapple at the Garden

Nov. 29	Cornell	New York, N.Y.	9 a.m.
Nov. 29	Princeton	New York, N.Y.	11 a.m.
Dec. 11	Maryland *	College Park, Md.	6 p.m.
Dec. 12	Rutgers *	Piscataway, N.J.	12 p.m.

Midlands Championships

Dec. 29	TBD	Evanston, Ill.	9 a.m.
Dec. 30	TBD	Evanston, Ill.	9 a.m.
Jan. 8	Wisconsin *	Madison, Wis.	7 p.m.
Jan. 10	Minnesota *	Devaney Center	2 p.m.
Jan. 15	Penn State *	University Park, Pa.	6 p.m.
Jan. 17	Ohio State *	Columbus, Ohio	1 p.m.
Jan. 24	Iowa *	Devaney Center	2 p.m.
Feb. 5	Illinois *	Devaney Center	7 p.m.
Feb. 6	N.C. State	Devaney Center	7 p.m.
Feb. 12	Northwestern *	Devaney Center	8 p.m.

NWCA National Duals

Feb 21-22	TBD	TBD	TBD
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Big Ten Championships

Mar. 5-6	TBD	Iowa City, Iowa	10 a.m.
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NCAA Championships

Mar. 17-19	TBD	New York City, N.Y.	10
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Sophomore Annika Albrecht is among the Big Ten leaders in ace serves this season.

Albrecht emerges as Nebraska's

SERVING SENSATION

Story by Bob Hamar • Photos by Mitch Otto & Jimmy Rash

Annika Albrecht wasn't the best server in the Big Ten Conference when she joined the Nebraska program before the 2014 season, but the sophomore from North Aurora, Illinois, is now at the top. As of Nov. 10, Albrecht and Penn State's Bryanna Weiskircher were tied for the conference lead in ace serves with 30.

"I don't think I was ever a bad server, I'll put it that way," Albrecht said. "I changed my serve when I came here. I had never really served from the left side. Coach brought up the idea. It's a good place to score from if you look at the stats. I went with it. He let me play around with it a little bit."

It seems to work for Albrecht, but don't bother asking Cook why it works.

"I don't know," he said. "It's a good question. We've studied it and we can't figure it out. It just depends on the server and where they're coming from. But we chart it. We measure it. We stat it. It makes no sense. Why coming from the left? I don't know because we have players better from the right or the middle. That's what we try to figure out. I think whether we put her on the left or the right she'd still be good."

But for Cook and his coaching staff, good serving isn't all about aces. It's often about making it hard for opponents to run their offense.

"If you have a hard time passing, that really disrupts you," Cook said.

But however it's measured, Albrecht is right at the top of the Husker servers.

"She gives teams fits," Cook said. "That's why we have her serve first or second every match. We try to get our best servers more reps, because over time, by serving first or second she's probably going to serve a third more balls than Sydney (Townsend) will or whoever is serving in that spot."

Albrecht knew that good serving was a way to get on the court early. She has played in every set so far this season after setting a freshman school record with 118 sets last season.

"He (Cook) always said a great server can play," Albrecht said. "I think any freshman coming in you just want to get on the court. When he says if you have a great serve you can play, I think anybody would try to work on that the most."

That doesn't mean Albrecht can't do other things. At some point in the future, she may be a six-rotation player for the Huskers. She's already shown she can attack when given the opportunity. Albrecht had 28 kills the opening weekend of the season when she had 10 against Tulsa and a career-high 18 against Pittsburgh.

"I think just hitting is so much fun," Albrecht said. "Maybe somebody would say differently, but just getting up and being able to let yourself go is so fun. It was great. Kelly (Hunter) has a great set so it's easy to hit off of her."

For now though, her main responsibility is serving and playing in the back row. That's OK too. Albrecht just wants to do whatever she can to help the Huskers win.

"I'm just so grateful for the opportunity," Albrecht said. "Everybody in practice works hard. It's just a fun environment to be in and it's a fun team to be with. Our whole team is so easy to play with."

That team is filled with strong servers too. Cook said the Huskers are the best serving team in the Big Ten. Albrecht said they work on serving every day.

"We put up targets on the court and have to hit them a certain number of times or if we miss we have consequences for that," she said. "Coach really pushes us. We've done a really good job this year all around. I think everybody on our team is a good server and that's helped our team so much."

2015 Schedule

Nebraska Invite at Devaney Center

Aug. 28 Tulsa	W, 3-0	(1-0)
Aug. 29 Grand Canyon	W, 3-0	(2-0)
Aug. 29 Pittsburgh	W, 3-1	(3-0)

Vertical Challenge at Austin, Texas

Sept. 4 Texas	L, 3-2	(3-1)
Sept. 5 Oregon	W, 3-2	(4-1)

Ameritas Challenge at Devaney Center

Sept. 11 UC Davis	W, 3-0	(5-1)
Sept. 12 USF	W, 3-0	(6-1)
Sept. 12 Georgia Tech	W, 3-0	(7-1)

Sept. 15 at Creighton W, 3-0 (8-1)

Sept. 19 at Iowa State W, 3-1 (9-1)

Sept. 23 at Iowa W, 3-0 (10-1)

Sept. 26 Iowa W, 3-0 (11-1)

Oct. 2 at Penn State W, 3-2 (12-1)

Oct. 3 at Ohio State L, 3-2 (12-2)

Oct. 7 Mich. State W, 3-1 (13-2)

Oct. 10 Michigan W, 3-1 (14-2)

Oct. 16 at Northwestern W, 3-0 (15-2)

Oct. 17 at Illinois W, 3-0 (16-2)

Oct. 23 Minnesota L, 3-1 (16-3)

Oct. 24 Wisconsin L, 3-1 (16-4)

Oct. 30 Rutgers W, 3-0 (17-4)

Oct. 31 Maryland W, 3-0 (18-4)

Nov. 4 at Purdue W, 3-0 (19-4)

Nov. 7 at Indiana W, 3-0 (20-4)

Nov. 11 at Mich. State W, 3-2 (21-4)

Nov. 14 at Maryland W, 3-1 (22-4)

Nov. 18 Indiana 7 p.m.

Nov. 21 at Michigan 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 25 Illinois 7 p.m.

Nov. 28 Penn State 7 p.m.

Dec. 4-5 NCAA 1st, 2nd Rds TBD

Dec. 11-12 NCAA Regionals - TBD

Dec. 17 NCAA Semis at Omaha

Dec. 19 NCAA Final at Omaha



NEBRASKA VOLLEYBALL NOTEBOOK

Compiled by Bob Hamar • Photo by Jimmy Rash

HOLMAN HANDLING THINGS WELL

Briana Holman transferred from LSU to Nebraska in January with the hopes that she could play for the Huskers this season.

But Holman, who was a first-team All-American middle blocker for the Tigers last year, didn't get her release from LSU so she has to sit out this season. She'll have two years of eligibility remaining at Nebraska starting next season.

It's not an easy situation to be in, but Nebraska coach John Cook said Holman has handled it well.

"The main thing with Briana is I think she's done an amazing job this year," Cook said. "I think she's been a really good teammate. She doesn't play the victim mode, which very easily she could do. She's doing awesome in school. She's really staying in the moment and counting the days down."

Cook said Holman wasn't always doing so well. Earlier in the year he said she was struggling, but one day it just turned around for her. Cook remembers that day.

All of a sudden, her body language was good and she was engaged with what was happening. Cook wondered how long it would last, but things with Holman have been good ever since.

"When somebody goes through something like that and handles it well, you get a lot of respect from your teammates," Cook said. "You look to last spring for example. We had some kids leave. They didn't handle not playing or their roles or whatever very well. These players notice that stuff."

Cook said Holman had a lot to learn about blocking. She just hadn't been exposed to much coaching in that area of the game.

"I don't want to throw LSU under the bus, but she did not know what a blocking system was," Cook said. "She just blocked. They just said 'Go block the ball.' She told me she didn't do blocking drills. There are a lot of programs like that. They don't spend much time on blocking."

"We train blocking very technically. We have a couple of systems we use. It's really opened her eyes as a blocker."

BREAKING DOWN DOORS

The biggest problem the Huskers had in a 3-0 sweep Nov. 4 at Indiana was just getting to the court for the third set.

The Hoosiers play in an old gym. The Huskers went into their locker room after the second set and the doors were closed behind them.

When it was time to go back to the floor, they couldn't get the doors open.

So Cook called Husker volleyball director of operations Lindsay Peterson, who was helping with the radio broadcast. Peterson went running towards the locker room, which left everyone courtside wondering what was going on.

Peterson found help to get the doors open.

"They said, 'Everybody stand back,'" Cook said. "And then all of a sudden the doors blew open, there was wood going everywhere. The thing broke. There was this huge loud bang. We got out about 30 seconds before the start of third game."

"...I don't know what they hit it with. It was like the FBI or SWAT team came in. 'It was wild. I know it distracted our team because we didn't get off to a very good start in the third game.'"

NCAA TOURNEY AROUND THE CORNER

With just a handful of regular season matches left to play, the Huskers are still in the hunt for a

Big Ten title. That was one of the goals set before the season started.

Now Cook said they have to make sure they are a top 16 seed so they get to host first- and second-round matches in the NCAA Tournament before going on the road for a regional.

Regionals this year will be in Des Moines, Austin, Texas; Lexington, Kentucky and San Diego. Cook has no idea where the Husker might end up, but there's little doubt a trip to Des Moines would be the easiest for the team and the best for fans who want to watch the team play.

"The regional thing, who knows how they decide that," he said. "But we want to put ourselves in a good position. They have to send all these Big Ten teams somewhere. To get some Big Ten teams there would really help attendance."



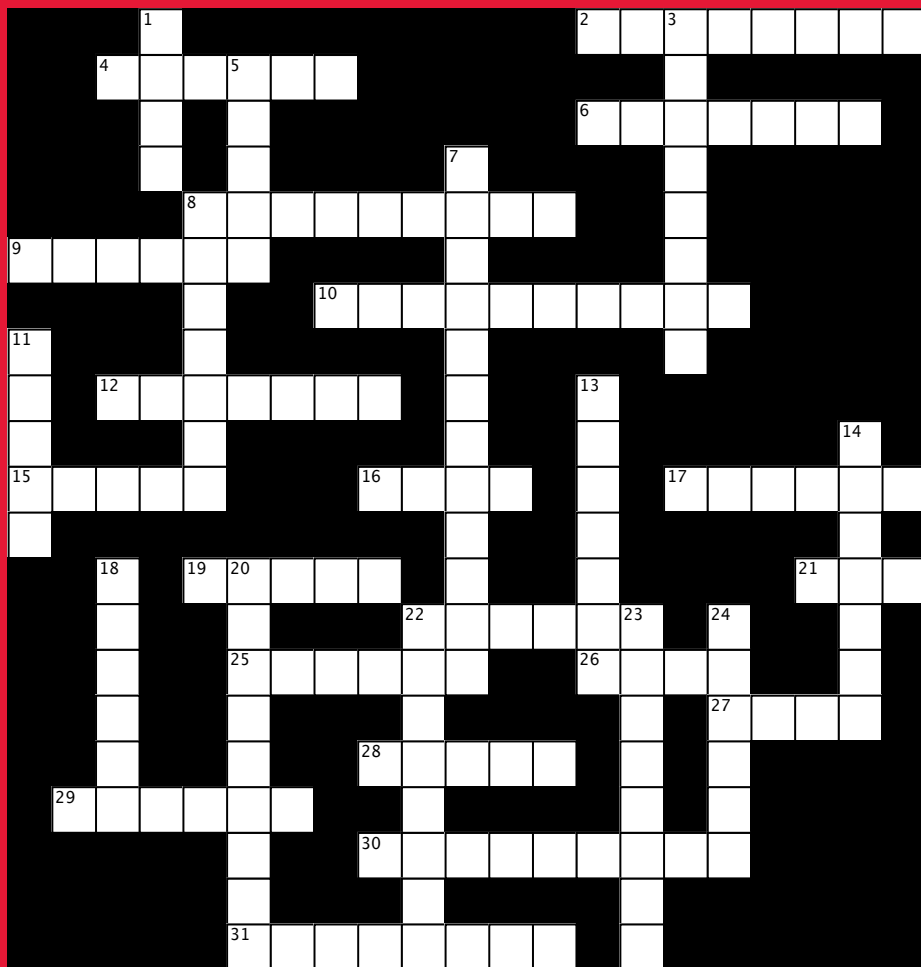
HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

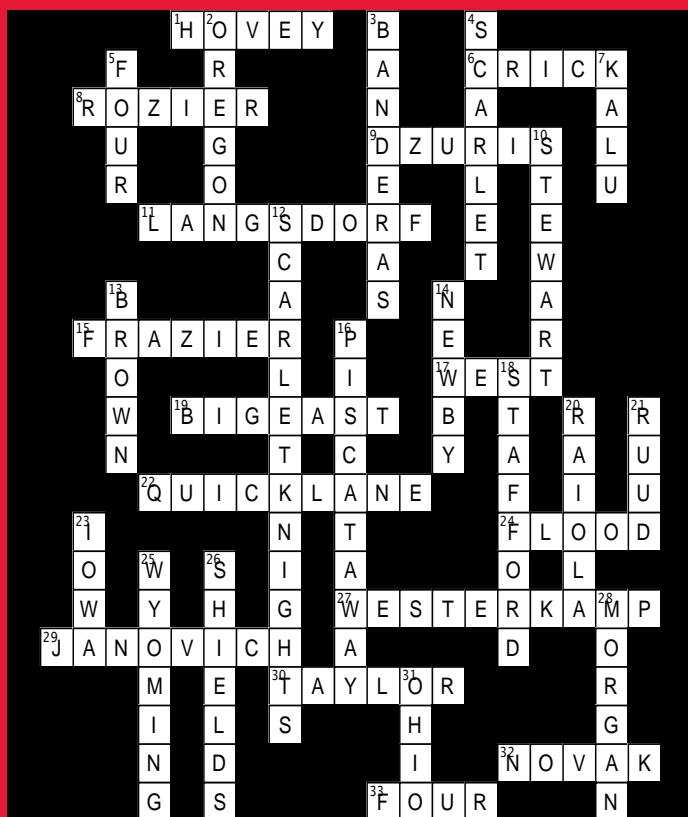
2. Iowa campus location
4. Wears No. 8 (offense)
6. NU's bowl game after 2014 season
8. NU's No. 2 all-time passer
9. Caught winning touchdown pass vs. Michigan State
10. Leading receiver vs. Michigan State
12. Iowa head coach
15. Leading rusher vs. Michigan State
16. NU's division in Big Ten Conference
17. Day of the week for NU-Iowa game
19. Ex-Husker offensive lineman now with New York Jets
21. Iowa's previous head coach
22. NU's third Heisman Trophy winner
25. 2003 All-America punter
26. Wears No. 10 (defense)
27. Intercepted pass vs. Michigan State
28. Wears No. 8 (defense)
29. Ex-Husker defensive back now with Oakland Raiders
30. Iowa's bowl game after 2014 season
31. Athletic director

DOWN

1. Iowa school color
3. Receivers coach
5. Leading tackler vs. Michigan State
7. Opponent in 2016 Big Ten opener
8. 1993 Butkus Award winner
11. Iowa school color
13. Iowa's only Heisman Trophy winner
14. Wears No. 55 (defense)
18. Defensive line coach
20. Wears No. 98 (defense)
22. 2018 non-conference opponent
23. Iowa nickname
24. Wears No. 10 (offense)



NOVEMBER 27 PUZZLE



NOVEMBER 14 SOLUTION

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